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THE TIMES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7 1992

INFOTECH
Page 27

40p

Province leaders called to No 10

Major sets up summit after Ulster killings

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday invited the leaders of the four main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland for Downing Street talks on combating the wave of bloodshed that has left 26 people dead this year.

The meeting early next week will be the first of its kind for more than 16 years and was immediately welcomed by MPs from the province. The prime minister told the Commons he hoped politicians of all parties would give the clearest possible lead in the search for peace.

Mr Major decided to call the meeting after holding private talks with Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, yesterday and after a

cabinet meeting at which internment was discussed. Government sources insisted, however, that conditions were still "a long way" from being appropriate for the re-introduction of detention without trial. Mr Brooke also doubted its effectiveness, since nearly half of those charged with terrorist crimes were not previously known to have links with paramilitary groups.

Unionists have been intensifying their calls for internment in the wake of the violence that has claimed 12 lives in the past week. Two people were still critically ill in hospital yesterday after the betting shop massacre in which five people were shot dead on Wednesday and the father of one of those who died described the killers as "slime spawned by the devil".

The wave of killings prompted the IRA to tell its followers not to get involved in tit-for-tat murders, which it said suited only the British. An Ulster Defence Association spokesman told the BBC in Belfast that it would be prepared to cease violence if the IRA ended what he called its campaign of genocide.

The meeting next week will bring together Mr Major, Mr Brooke, Tom King, the defence secretary, the Unionist leaders James Molyneaux and Ian Paisley, John Hume of the SDLP and John Alderdice of the Alliance party. It will be the first time talks about Northern Ireland security have been held at Downing Street since Harold Wilson called all the main parties together in January 1976.

Mr Molyneaux hoped the invitation might pave the way to the restoration of political and constitutional stability and Mr Paisley welcomed the fact that, "after 20 years", a British prime minister had heard he would meet the leaders. "That, at least, is a breakthrough."

Mr Paisley reacted with a mixture, however, to Mr Major's suggestion that talks could bring peace. "Do you really believe that if the politicians of Northern Ireland at this moment were sitting at a table the awful atrocities that we have witnessed in the past few days would not have taken place? If you believe that, then there is no hope for Northern Ireland."

Mr Major replied that it was to the advantage of everyone for all shades of opinion to come together to express a mutual wish for peace.

The exchange was an indication of how the prime minister will inevitably find himself caught between the Unionists, who are demanding internment and a massive crackdown on the IRA, and the nationalists. Seamus Mallon of the SDLP nevertheless welcomed the talks, saying: "Our party leader will most certainly be there and we look forward to that dialogue."

Mr Brooke told the Commons that the meeting would ensure that "at the highest levels of government, we can hear directly from political leaders who understand and represent the views of the people of Northern Ireland who inevitably have borne the brunt of recent events".

He strongly denied that security in the province was out of control and nor would it be allowed to get out of control. Military reinforcements for the police would be kept under review further if circumstances made it necessary.

He promised "vigorous follow-up action" to track down those responsible for the latest attacks.

For the opposition, Kevin McNaughton welcomed the talks and said they should also address the province's political problems. "The dead bear witness to the failure of the political process," he said.

"Terrorists divide the community by fear. The constitutional politicians can, by their actions, bind those wounds."

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Cancer dose blunder

More than four hundred cancer patients received incorrect doses of radiation because of a blunder at a hospital in Stoke-on-Trent. The government announced an enquiry after North Staffordshire Hospital Centre said radiation doses were up to 30 per cent less than they should have been and the medical physicist responsible had been moved to another post.

Page 3

Into Europe

From next Monday *The Times* will provide a special service for readers in mainland Europe. On February 10 and on every publishing day thereafter a special edition of the world's finest newspaper, prepared specially for these readers, is to be available at key sales points throughout the Continent.

Maxwell voice

The recorded voice of Robert Maxwell, the late publishing magnate, was heard in the High Court during the Sara Keays libel case, negotiating with her over serialisation of her book *A Question of Judgement*.

Page 3

Olympic fear

A car bomb which killed five people in the centre of Madrid, has raised fears that Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, is planning to hit this year's Olympic Games.

Page 11

Freedom day

Russia says it will release its last ten political prisoners today from the notorious Perm 35 forced labour camp.

Page 12

Nuclear bid

GEC Alsthom, an Anglo-French joint venture, has won a £580 million contract to build a 1,360 megawatt gas-fired power station for PowerGen at Connah's Quay, North Wales.

Page 19

Nine killed as plane crashes on restaurant

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN INDIANAPOLIS

AT LEAST nine people died when an American military C130 Hercules transport plane crashed into a restaurant and a hotel in southern Indiana yesterday, starting a fire with 600 flames.

Ann Groves, Vanderburgh county's deputy coroner, said nine people, including five of those on board, had been confirmed dead, but added: "That toll will rise." Nine people are still missing. Some earlier reports said 28 people might have died. Police and rescue workers were last night still trying to rescue at least two people believed to be trapped in the restaurant.

As many as 20 people were believed to have been in Jalo's restaurant, about a mile from Evansville airport, when the plane ploughed into it after striking the ground in the car park. The aircraft also struck

the adjacent Drury Inn. Debbie Brennan, the hotel's manager, said: "We heard a boom and then there was a fireball."

Witnesses with flying experience said the plane appeared to stall and spin as it made a steep curving approach to the airfield in a manoeuvre intended to simulate landing techniques used in battle.

As a man and a woman were arrested in connection



Anniversary bouquet: the Queen at a hospice for cancer patients at Snettisham, Norfolk, yesterday, the 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne. She was showered with messages of congratulation. Report, page 3

82% think that Ashdown should stay, poll shows

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

PADDY Ashdown moved swiftly yesterday to reassess his authority as his election strategists demanded a nationwide police investigation into thefts from the offices of the three main parties.

The Liberal Democrat leader was given a boost last night as the first opinion poll since the disclosure of his affair with a former secretary suggested strong public support for him. A Gallup telephone survey of 502 electors found that 82 per cent believe he should continue in office, and only 4.6 per cent that he should resign.

Among the 58 Liberal Democrat supporters questioned, 92 per cent thought he should continue in office and fewer than 2 per cent thought he should resign. The special poll for *The Daily Telegraph* asked people whether they thought Mr Ashdown should continue as leader or resign.

At the same time, Labour set in hand a national check of break-ins over the past two years at its constituency and regional offices and the homes of party staff to determine whether there is a pattern that suggests involvement of external forces, which party leaders doubt.

As a man and a woman were arrested in connection

with the theft of a document from the offices of Mr Ashdown's solicitor that gave details of the Liberal Democrat leader's affair, Mr Ashdown was heard in silence by the Commons when he rose with other party leaders to congratulate the Queen on the fortieth anniversary of her accession and to question the prime minister over the latest security developments in Northern Ireland.

His colleagues were relieved that he had taken the opportunity of a non-partisan speech.

Tricia Howard, the woman whose affair with Mr Ashdown five years ago was made public on Wednesday, issued a statement.

Confirmed on page 18, col 2

occasion to demonstrate to the country that it was "business as usual". Party staff were told that there would no change in campaigning plans or in Mr Ashdown's role.

There are no women law lords, and only one Court of Appeal judge out of 27, and two of 83 High Court judges, are women. Only 21 of 455 circuit judges are women.

It is likely to be several months before Mrs Mills takes up the post while a successor at the Serious Fraud Office is selected.

Woman in the news, page 6

Leading article, page 15

First woman chosen to take over as DPP

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARBARA Mills, QC, was named yesterday as the new Director of Public Prosecutions, the first woman to hold the post.

Mrs Mills, aged 51, the director of the Serious Fraud Office, replaces Sir Allan Green, QC, who resigned last October after being stopped by police for kerb-crawling. Her appointment will be welcomed within the Crown Prosecution Service because Mrs Mills is likely to carry on Sir Allan's fight for CPS lawyers

to be allowed to take cases in crown courts.

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Woman in the news, page 6

Leading article, page 15

Embattled Clinton feeling the draft again

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton's presidential bid was again embroiled in controversy yesterday after it was claimed that he dodged the Vietnam draft. Mr Clinton, front-runner for the Democratic nomination, dismissed the allegations as an old and discredited story, but they have arisen just as he was recovering from unproven charges of adultery and are bound to raise damaging new questions about his character and credibility.

Bob Kerrey, a Democratic rival who lost his leg in Vietnam, moved quickly to exploit the issue, saying "the jury is out" on Mr Clinton's past conduct. "I hope he's telling the truth, but I've got my doubts." Republicans are likely to demand the same intense media scrutiny of Mr Clinton's record as that given to Dan Quayle in 1988 after it was claimed that George Bush's running

mate had pulled strings to get into the Indiana National Guard, and so avoid service in Vietnam.

The allegations against the Arkansas governor were contained in a long *Wall Street Journal* article yesterday. It asserted that he avoided an almost certain call-up in September or October 1969 by agreeing to study law at the University of Arkansas and join its reserve officer training corps. He did neither. Mr Clinton had by that time already enjoyed a year's deferment because he had won a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford. The article quoted Opal Ellis, aged 84, a Republican who was executive secretary of Mr Clinton's draft board, as saying that he had told her on his return from Oxford that summer that "he was too well-educated to go" and "was going to fix my wagon and pull every string he could think of". Mr Clinton could not recall the meeting and denied using strong arm tactics to avoid the draft. He

said he had tried that summer to join the air force and navy's officer training programmes but failed because of a vision defect in one eye and a hearing problem in the other.

The article then quoted Eugene Holmes, an army reserve officer recruiter at Arkansas University, as saying that Mr Clinton subsequently agreed with him to enlist at the university that autumn and join the training corps, gaining a further deferment. In fact, Mr Clinton returned to Oxford for another year and then went to Yale law school. "I thought he was going to finish a month or two in England and then come back to the University of Arkansas," he said. "Bill Clinton was able to manipulate things so that he didn't have to go in."

Mr Clinton called the *Journal's* article

"an old story that... has been regularly recycled by Republicans. My voters [in Arkansas] have heard all of this and rejected it."

Clinton: "an old and discredited story"

Kidnap man tells of regret

BY CRAIG SETON
AND PETER DAVENPORT

THE man who kidnapped Birmingham estate agent Stephanie Slater wrote to police to apologise for the ordeal he put her through and to deny that he had murdered Julie Dart, the Leeds teenager found strangled seven months ago, police disclosed yesterday.

The letter, posted in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, was received yesterday by West Midlands police in Birmingham, where the hunt for him is being co-ordinated. It contained expressions of "regret and contrition" and offered apologies to Miss Slater and her parents.

It indicated that copies had been sent to West Yorkshire police, to Lynn Dart, Julie's mother, and to newspapers and broadcasting organisations. The typed, three-page letter, posted on Wednesday, arrived as West Midlands and West Yorkshire police held a meeting in Birmingham of 100 senior detectives from around Britain to prepare for the possibility that the kidnapper could strike again.

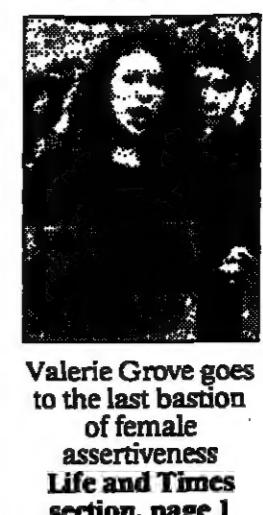
Tom Cook, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire, said before yesterday's meeting that the letter contained information only the kidnapper would know. He added: "He says in the letter that he is responsible for the Stephanie Slater kidnap, but not for the Julie Dart murder."

Mr Cook, who is in charge of the co-ordinated investigation with West Midlands police into Miss Slater's abduction and Miss Dart's murder, said that the contrite tone of the letters could indicate that the police were closing in and that the man was preparing a defence for a court appearance. He said that he did not believe the kidnapper's denial of murdering Miss Dart, aged 18, who was kidnapped in Leeds last July and found dead 10 days later in Lincolnshire.

The abductor claimed that, during the eight days that Miss Slater, aged 25, was held captive, he had carried a note in his pocket revealing her whereabouts in case he was caught or had an accident and she was left alone. Mr Cook said: "It does show a genuine concern for Stephanie and indicates he was working alone and did not

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TODAY IN THE TIMES
SOMERVILLE
SAYS NO



Valerie Grove goes to the last bastion of female assertiveness Life and Times section, page 1

BLOOD, TOIL,
TEARS AND
SCOTCH



How did Churchill save the world while drinking like a fish? The Health page on Friday Life and Times section, page 6

Conspiracy theories played down in aftermath of theft of Ashdown papers

Parties tell of 50 office burglaries in two years

BY STEWART TENDLER AND BILL FROST

ALL three main political parties yesterday issued fresh details of more than 50 burglaries against party offices up and down the country over the past two years as calls increased for an enquiry into possible political espionage.

Many party workers refuse to subscribe to conspiracy theories but admitted increasing concern about the level of the burglaries and their computer targets. The cases are being investigated as ordinary crimes inspired by the fact many constituency offices are in buildings with little security and are often equipped with valuable computer equipment.

The earliest Liberal Democrat case was in December 1990 when the offices of the Truro constituency party were broken into although neither the police nor the office staff could work out how the thieves got in.

The burglary was discovered when the constituency organiser tried to find a collection of 70 computer discs. The discs containing details of members and party helpers had been taken with about £20 in stamps but portable office equipment had been used. There was no sign of forced entry.

The Liberal Democrat constituency offices for Richmond and Barnes in south London were broken into two weeks ago, on 26 January.



Livsey: disks and two computers stolen

The burglar got in through a window at lunchtime and took nothing.

Last weekend the party's offices for the Littleborough and Saddleworth constituency on the edge of Manchester was broken into and the only item stolen was its computer. The discs were taken. The burglar, who forced a door, moved aside a £100 camera on the desk next to the computer and also ig-

nored other computer equipment.

Four days ago an office used by Lord Holme of Cheltenham, an adviser to Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, at the offices of the Constitutional Reform Centre in Covent Garden were burgled. A computer and papers were stolen.

Over the past three years 26 Conservative constituency offices have been burgled some of them several times. Conservative Central office said yesterday. The total of break-ins during the period is 39.

Offices in The Wrekin, Shropshire, were raided five times. Each time computer equipment was taken. Burglars also visited the party's offices in Chichester, West Sussex, three times over 18 months. Streatham Conservative Association in south London was raided three times over the same period. The most recent burglary was just over a month ago. Again computer equipment was taken.

The Conservatives' office in Bradford was burgled in March last year as the full-time agent Val Binney and her team of voluntary workers

party's regional agent said cash in the same safe and items of personal jewellery were left. He said: "The thief could be regarded as a 'routine burglar' but any theft of computer equipment and computer records from a political party could be regarded as highly suspicious."

Tory offices at Bath, Chris Patten's marginal seat, also lost computer equipment in a burglary. A regional official said that although there was inadequate evidence to support a conspiracy theory, "perhaps in the light of other recent events, there might be a need to re-examine the circumstances".

John Earl, deputy central office agent for Greater London, said: " Petty thefts from constituency offices have been going on for years and I would suspect that thefts from MPs' offices have been too. I would imagine there are lots of burglars sitting on stolen computer discs with no idea what to do with them."

Labour has reported burglaries at constituency offices in Bow and Poplar, Bethnal Green and Stepney, Hornsey and Wood Green, all in London, the party office for the Manchester, Stretford seat and homes of full-time organisers in Islington, north London, and Wigan.

Nine Labour MPs have been burgled, including seven offices at Westminster. Peter Hain, MP for Neath, has accused the security services of supplying stolen information to the government. The Labour incidents include three thefts from Jack Cunningham, the party's campaign manager, and records taken from the office of Marjorie Mowlam, the party spokeswoman on City affairs. John Prescott had a disc stolen from his researcher's machine after the prime minister ordered an enquiry into a leak of the draft of the Queen's Speech to Mr Prescott.

Ashdown boost, page one
From the gutter
and Lowestoft day, page 14
Daily, page 14
Letters, page 15



Mrs Ashdown: knew of affair at the time

Former lover pleads for privacy

BY BILL FROST

PAIDDY Ashdown's wife and his former lover faced the press on separate London doorsteps yesterday. Mrs Ashdown said that she had known of her husband's affair at the time, while Tricia Howard asked to be set free from intolerable intrusion and pressure.

Ms Howard, aged 48, stood in silence posing for pictures as a solicitor issued a statement on her behalf disclosing the existence of this brief relationship and the papers who have asked me to do the same.

"I would like to say that I very much hope that, in return for making myself available to be photographed, my family and I will now be left alone to live a normal life free from intolerable pressures and intrusions."

As the statement was delivered, meat porters from Smithfield Market, close to the solicitors' offices in central London, joined the mélée. They shouted encouragement to Ms Howard and growled at the press. As the photo session continued, the porters' hostility grew. An egg was thrown into the crowd



Silent pose: Tricia Howard deplored tabloids

and a voice shouted: "That's for you team. Leave the lady alone." The missile broke against a window, just a few feet from Ms Howard. A few minutes later, Ms Howard retreated inside. Some of the photographers set up camp on the doorstep. "I reckon we'll be on this a while," said one.

Jane Ashdown told journalists camped on her doorstep yesterday that she had known of her husband's affair. "It came as a great shock, but that was five years ago," she said. Her instinct had led her to realise that he was being unfaithful. "When you live in close proximity with a guy for a long time, it is quite easy. You do not need a sixth sense about these things, you just have to be fairly intelligent."

Press told to show restraint

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PLANS aimed at reducing the strain on MPs' marriages by introducing more conventional working hours in the Commons are nearing completion.

The special Commons committee investigating working practices is to recommend a 10pm end to parliamentary business, except in emergencies. The move, part of an initiative announced by John Major when he became prime minister, will remove the pressure on family life caused by late and all-night sittings.

In practice, votes at 10pm would still delay MPs for another half-hour, but the reform would enable them to return home before midnight instead of having to remain at Westminster in case of votes in the early hours.

In the light of complaints from MPs about the difficulty of fitting in constituency work and finding time to spend with families, the committee wants also to cut the number of Friday sittings. That would take the normal parliamentary week from 2.30pm Monday to 10pm Thursday. To make up the hours, the committee will suggest a Wednesday morning sitting, probably starting at 10.30, to deal with private business.

One of the committee's main concerns is the anecdotal evidence that the late hours deter both men and women

with young families from standing for Parliament.

The MPs are understood to have ruled out sittings from 9am to 5pm because of the importance of free mornings for ministerial, constituency and other business duties.

Also, four or five morning sittings a week would do little to help MPs with small children. The committee has not yet agreed how tightly to control the scope for longer sittings in emergencies.

The prospect of a small majority, or a minority, government after the election has increased the desire for reform as heavy legislation would raise the pressure for longer sittings. Although the committee is not expected to publish its report until early March, some of its MPs are anxious to win approval from the Commons for the reforms before the new parliament.

The changes are mostly in line with the recommendations from John MacGregor, Leader of the House, and the ideas from the other parties. However, most of those on the cross-party committee disagree with Mr MacGregor's call for the abolition of ten-minute rule bills introduced by backbench MPs. The bills stand little chance of becoming law, but the committee sees them as a vehicle for worthwhile proposals that could be taken on by a government.

He is in no way thought that the *News of the World*, which received the stolen document about Mr Ashdown's affair, or *The Scotsman*, which broke the story, had acted wrongly, but restraint must be the "maxim of the day" if stringent privacy laws and government intervention were to be avoided.

Better hours will ease marital strain

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEWSROOMS must avoid mixing political reporting with irrelevant commentaries on the private lives of politicians, Lord McGregor of Durris, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said yesterday in the wake of the Paddy Ashdown affair.

Although the commission has received no complaints about the coverage, Lord McGregor said that he feared reports on politician's sex lives during the emotive pre-election campaign would increase the threat of statutory press regulation.

The press, on probation for 18 months in the wake of the 1989 Calcutta report into privacy and the press, had improved considerably over the past 12 months, Lord McGregor said. But if sections of the press became "providers of little Kinsey reports on politicians and parliamentary candidates, then all the gains of the past 12 months will be lost".

He is in no way thought that the *News of the World*, which received the stolen document about Mr Ashdown's affair, or *The Scotsman*, which broke the story, had acted wrongly, but restraint must be the "maxim of the day" if stringent privacy laws and government intervention were to be avoided.

Marriages suffer, Major says

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE prime minister yesterday echoed Paddy Ashdown's comments on the strains imposed on marriages by the Westminster lifestyle.

John Major said that politics was a "rough trade for marriage and always had been". Mr Major's remarks came in an interview with BBC Radio 1 broadcast last night but recorded before the Mr Ashdown's admission that he had a brief affair with his then Commons secretary five years ago.

They were in the same vein as comments made by Mr Ashdown in an interview with *Living* magazine in

which he described the Commons as a "madhouse" designed to deny MPs any social life and "smash up their marriages".

While the prime minister denied that his own marriage had been put under strain by his career, he acknowledged that his wife Norma had had some tearful moments. The pressure on her had intensified on his promotion from Treasury chief secretary to foreign secretary in 1989, a post that he held for three months before being made Chancellor.

Mr Major said that his Treasury job was "one of the busiest jobs in the cabinet" and the one with the greatest workload. "I moved straight from that to become foreign secretary, with a lot of travelling. It was a time when a lot was happening at home with the children, and a whole series of other personal matters. It was a tough two or three months."

Mr Major said that he had been "extraordinarily lucky" that his wife had understood what his work entailed and that she had contributed remarkably. His two teenage children had also been "amazing" in their tolerance, he said.

Girl loses mental detention claim

Acouncil was cleared yesterday by a High Court judge of sending a girl in its care to a mental hospital without her consent because of disruptive behaviour at a children's home.

Mr Justice Kennedy said that Kirklees council, in West Yorkshire, had acted within its powers and in the best interests of the girl, aged 12, who was feared to be suicidal. "It seems to me that the local authority [social workers and officials] acted as a team, responsibly keeping each other in touch and behaving as a responsible parent would have done," he said.

Elizabeth Lawson, QC, for the girl and her mother, had said that she had been unlawfully deprived of liberty for 18 days in 1989, and held in an adult psychiatric ward on an informal basis without legal procedures being followed.

The judge said the council was entitled to have the girl assessed.

£50,000 award for train driver

The driver of a mail train who suffered from shock after making an emergency stop at 98mph when a fault caused a signal light to change was awarded £50,000 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Fred Whale, aged 61, who has been unable to work since the incident at Nunton station in June 1988, was afraid that the train was about to be robbed or that it might be hit from behind by another train. He had sued the British Railways Board for stress and loss of earnings. The board admitted liability.

Thief cleared of killing PC

A man who admitted stealing from cars was cleared yesterday of killing an off-duty policeman. Derek Johnston, aged 24, of Newcastle upon Tyne, was accused of being the driver of a stolen car that killed PC Duncan Clark in a car park at Hexham, Northumberland, last March.

PC Clark, aged 27, stood in front of the car after he saw its woman owner trying to stop a thief from stealing it. He died of head injuries. Mr Johnston denied being the driver. A jury at Newcastle crown court found him not guilty of murder or manslaughter.

Scargill fails

Arthur Scargill, NUM president, has been dropped as an official of his constituency Labour party after being vice-chairman for 10 years. He failed to be re-elected in competition with five other candidates in Barnsley West and Penistone, South Yorkshire.

CORRECTION

On January 31 we reported a Radio Authority ruling against Capital Radio over remarks made about homosexual people on its *Breakfast Show*. A spokesman for Capital, and consequently *The Times*, report, wrongly attributed these remarks to Chris Tarrant. The presenter was in fact Russ Williams. We apologise to Mr Tarrant.

THE EUROPEAN TIMES European edition for The Times

From Monday, *The Times* will provide a special service for readers in continental Europe. As the single market approaches, more Britons are crossing the Channel for business and leisure. From Monday, an edition of *The European Times* will be available at sales points throughout the continent.

This edition will contain the same material as the domestic editions, which themselves will carry more news from around Europe on the overseas pages and on the business and sports pages. The chief difference will be that, in place of the daily TV guide, the European edition will carry a full page on the arts and cultural events across the continental cinema, theatre, painting, sculpture, architecture, design, fashion, music, opera and ballet. *Times* staff writers in the European capitals will comment on the cultural life of their host nations.

On Saturdays, *The European Times* will carry weekly arts and television listings for Europe. This edition will not be available in Britain.



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Tape of negotiations with Maxwell played at Keays libel case

BY A STAFF REPORTER

ROBERT Maxwell added a dash of merriment to the Sara Keays libel case yesterday when the recorded voice of the late broadcasting magnate was heard saying that he could be trusted if he were the Bank of England.

The recording played to the High Court jury was of Maxwell negotiating with Miss Keays, sometime lover of Cecil Parkinson, the former Tory party chairman, over serialisation of her book *A Question of Judgement*.

Court 13, scene of libel cases involving Maxwell, echoed to laughter as he told her: "Trust me if you will... You know, my record speaks for itself... Can I say to you that you're talking to Robert Max-

well. I'm not Rupert Murdoch. I'm not a hired hand... You are as safe with me as you would be in the Bank of England."

As they struck their deal in October 1985, the week before the Tory party conference, Maxwell told her: "You're quite a tough lady."

The recording made by Miss Keays was produced while she was being cross-examined on the fourth day of her action against *New Woman* magazine. She is suing over an article published in October 1989 that she claims accused her of being a kiss-and-tell bimbo who wrote her book to make money and to cause maximum embarrassment to Mr Parkinson.

On the tape, the court heard Miss Keays bargain for £110,000 for the serialisation rights. It was agreed that, if serialisation did not go ahead in time for the conference, she would receive £110,000 plus £50,000 compensation and 25,000 hardback copies of the book, worth £40,000.

Miss Keays, aged 44, told the court that she was worried about industrial action and that there had to be a very strong "disincentive" against the book not seeing the light of day.

On the tape, Maxwell told her that he did not look on serialisation of her book as business, but as "a matter of major social, political and human importance". Miss Keays said that "some very big vested interests" were anxious to stop the serialisation, and Maxwell reassured her that they could not stop him, saying: "I'm not part of the establishment."

Earlier, in cross-examination by Desmond Browne QC, for *New Woman*, Miss Keays agreed that she had told the *Daily Mirror* that it would have to pay for a photograph of herself to accompany the serialisation. "If I'm going to do anything to benefit these people, I expect to be paid for it... I have no income. My career has been destroyed."

Miss Keays, of Marbury, near Bath, has said she wrote her book to protect her reputation.

action because of a "smear campaign" against her, and that she had not been "hell bent on revenge" against Mr Parkinson. Murdoch Magazines (UK) and Frankie McGowan, former editor of *New Woman*, deny libel.

Miss Keays denied that she had capitalised on the notoriety of herself and Flora, her daughter by Mr Parkinson, by selling photographs of the baby to the press. She agreed that she had received £17,000 for pictures of the child at a month old that appeared in the *Sunday Mirror* and the *Observer* in January 1984.

Mr Browne, questioning Miss Keays about whether she had wanted to cause embarrassment, pointed to a reference in her book about the night in April 1982 when it was reported that Britain was about to send a small task force to the South Atlantic.

She wrote: "Cecil had stayed with me at Temple West that night and had been about to drive to Cambridge the following morning when we heard the news of an emergency meeting of the Cabinet concerning the Falkland Islands. He left in a state of some anxiety lest anyone from 10 Downing Street had been trying to get in touch with him."

Miss Keays told the court that that was included to show that it was a lie to say that at the time Mr Parkinson had long since ceased to see her.

Mr Browne asked why she had included a reference in her book to Mr Parkinson making a "serious criticism" of Margaret Thatcher, the then prime minister, relating to the time of the Falklands crisis, if she had not wanted to cause embarrassment. Miss Keays denied that it was to her own back on No 10, which she claimed had "fuelled the campaign" against her.

If she wanted to embarrass the party, she could reveal matters, "certainly things about the Falklands war" that had not previously been made public, she said.

The hearing continues today.

Tributes flood in to 40 years of dedication

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SHOWERED with congratulations from home and abroad, the Queen began the 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne yesterday with a moment's reflection at Sandringham, for the day also marks the death of her father, King George VI, in that same house on February 6, 1952, at the age of only 56.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen drove the short distance to St Mary Magdalene church for a private communion service. Later, the Queen and her staff tackled eight sacks of mail delivered from King's Lynn sorting office, containing many messages of goodwill. Messages also arrived from heads of state including President von Weizsaecker of Germany, who said that the United Kingdom and the royal family had always advocated the restoration of German unity "with understanding and sympathy".

Her own government and Opposition added their tributes in the Commons. John Major sent the Cabinet's "warmest good wishes", while Neil Kinnock remarked that his sovereign was respected throughout the world for her "wisdom, strength and dedication".

The Queen's only public engagement of the day was a visit to a hospice for cancer patients in Snettisham, where a crowd of more than 500 greeted her with applause. In a violet coat and hat, she smiled broadly as she collected armfuls of flowers.

As on every Accession Day, gun salutes were fired in Hyde Park and at the Tower of London. During the Hyde Park salute by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, a horse became trapped under a gun carriage and was dragged for 50 yards. It was found to have suffered no more than a grazed front leg.

The highlight of yesterday, for the Queen, for her dinner guests at Sandringham, and for millions of her subjects, was 110 minutes in front of the television watching the documentary *Elizabeth R*, a film portrait of one of the nation's great undiscovered comedienne, buoyant, sharp and in very good form.

Photograph, page 1
Television review,
L&T section, page 3

Thousands cancer patients given wrong radiation dose

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT a thousand cancer patients given radiotherapy treatment over the past ten years at North Staffordshire Hospital Centre received smaller doses of radiation than they should have because an x-ray system was wrongly programmed.

Cancer specialists said yesterday that the error was "extremely serious" and that the treated patients were at risk of their tumours re-growing. Some patients received doses of radiation up to 30 per cent lower than prescribed.

Yesterday, North Staffordshire Health Authority announced it was setting up an independent clinical review to discover why the error went undetected for a decade. The mistake was discovered before Christmas by the medical physicist who made the original error in 1982, but it was not made public until yesterday to allow doctors to check through the patients' hospital notes.

On Tuesday John Scoble and Murray Brunt, consultant clinical oncologists,

wrote to 447 patients who are still alive offering them an appointment. Patients' GPs have also been informed.

Only patients treated by the isotopic technique, in which the x-ray machine is rotated around the body, were affected. They amount to 6 per cent of the 17,000 patients treated over the decade. They include patients with lung, throat, bladder, pelvic and cervical cancers. Children and women with breast cancer were not affected.

The problem arose when a "correction factor", which adjusts the dose according to the distance of the radiation source from the skin, was unnecessarily programmed into the system's computer. The medical physicist responsible, who had 30 years of experience, did not realise that the correction factor was already built in, so a double correction was made.

This is the first known case of cancer patients being under-treated with radiation. In 1988, 207 patients at Exeter Hospital received excess

doses after an x-ray system was wrongly calibrated. More than £1 million compensation has been paid.

In their letter to the Stafford patients, Dr Scoble and Dr Brunt say that in spite of the reduced doses their treatment was given "satisfactorily and without any obvious clinically detectable difference in outcome from that which should be expected". Dr Brunt said yesterday: "As far as we are aware, no one has actually suffered."

Other specialists disputed that assessment. Professor Karol Sikora, clinical oncologist at Hammersmith Hospital, London, said: "If up to a third too little radiation is given the patient may not be cured and could die from the disease regrowing."

Jeffrey Tobias, consultant clinical oncologist and radiotherapist at University College Hospital, London, said: "A 30 per cent reduction in dose is extremely serious. There is risk of local recurrence and the need for salvage surgery."

Plymouth harnesses wave power

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ENGINEERS are planning to adapt a decaying breakwater built during the Napoleonic wars to generate electricity from Atlantic waves running through Plymouth Sound.

The scheme in co-operation with Coventry Polytechnic could become the largest of its kind in the world, providing up to 15 per cent of Plymouth with cheap and environment-friendly electricity. The project plans to harness variations of wave technology pioneered on the island of Islay by Queen's University, Belfast, and also developed by the National Engineering Laboratories at East Kilbride.

Such systems, known as oscillating water columns, use waves hitting the breakwater to alternately force and suck air through turbines driving generators.



Protest arrests: Peter Tatchell, a former Labour parliamentary candidate, being arrested in London yesterday during a march on Parliament to demand reform of laws on homosexuality. Several people were arrested for breaching a law banning marches within a mile of Parliament while MPs are sitting

Campaign seeks vow on income for BBC

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of the three main political parties have been urged by a distinguished group of authors, academics, actors and artists to commit themselves to maintaining the value of the BBC licence fee past the expiry of the corporation's charter in 1996.

In a letter to *The Times* today, the historian Lord Briggs, the author Iris Murdoch and the former Beatle George Harrison join eight others to call on John Major, Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown to include in their parties' election manifestos a commitment to allowing the licence fee to rise at least in line with inflation.

The signatories, including David Plowright, forced to resign as Granada Television chairman by the parent company's more commercially-minded chief executive, also decry a BBC preoccupation with cuts, saying that the range and diversity of BBC programming is at "serious risk". They blame the BBC for too easily giving in to a preoccupation with cuts and free-market economics.

The other signatories are Terry Jones and Michael Palin, the *Monty Python* actors, Cameron Mackintosh, the West End producer, Anthony Sampson, the author, Brendan Foster, the former athlete and a BBC sports commentator, Sir Roy Strong, the art historian, and Richard Hoggart, author of *The Uses of Literacy*.

Today's letter is the first salvo in the Campaign For Quality Television's battle to ensure that the BBC maintains its public service broadcasting ethic into the next century. The campaign, which persuaded the government to add a quality requirement to the blind-bid auction for ITV licences, said yesterday that the BBC management should not buckle under commercial pressures.

Stewart Frebbel, head of regional programmes at Granada Television and a campaign member, said: "The BBC has accepted an agenda it does not need to accept and viewers do not want it to accept."

Letters, page 15

Rise in students to cost £150m

BY JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE reluctance of students to join the government's loan scheme has saved education ministers from an overspend on student grants and fees of almost £100 million.

Universities, polytechnics and colleges took 54,000 more full-time students last autumn, committing the government to an unexpected increase in spending on grants and fees. But the education department's annual report, published yesterday, showed that the low take-up of student loans more than compensated with a saving of £103 million.

With the number of applications for loans almost doubling this year, the saving will not be repeated, and the continuing growth in student numbers is expected to require an extra £150 million for grants and fees. By 1994-95, the bill may rise to £500 million. Higher education is

expanding at such a rate that the education department expects institutions to have cut their costs by more than 14 per cent in three years. Another 100,000 full-time students are expected by 1994-95. The education department expects polytechnics and colleges, which took

35,000 more full-time students in the current academic year, to have cut their costs per student by more than 20 per cent over a six-year period. Last year they took 26,000 more students with no more staff.

Universities will have made savings of 14 per cent in three years.

In 1989-90, the last year for which figures have been finalised, they had the same number of students per member of staff as the polytechnics.

A spokeswoman for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said: "We have been saying for some time that we have got problems. This is why we are concerned about how universities are going to preserve the quality of their courses."

The report showed an expected rise of 10 per cent in next year's budget for higher education, as part of an £800 million increase in the department's total spending.

One 18-year-old in four will be taking a higher education course, compared with one in seven in 1986-87.

□ A £10 million rise in the cost of the Assisted Places Scheme, enabling children from low-income families to attend independent schools, was attacked by Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman.

The increase disclosed in the department's report came at a time when 6,000 places remained unfilled.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats are committed to abolishing the scheme.

Mr Straw said: "While state schools are facing very serious cuts in budgets, the government is writing blank cheques for private schools. The assisted places scheme is a failure – both remarkably unpopular and wasteful."

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Depressed Belfast awaits new killings

Edward Gorman reports a mood of fear and apprehension on both sides as recent violence revives the terrors of the 1970s

YOU heard them wherever you went in Belfast yesterday: on everybody's lips, words of apprehension and fear in a tense city, anticipating yet more violence.

In the Catholic Falls and the Protestant Shankill roads, there was a simple depressing resignation about what is to come. More innocent people would die. There would be no resolution and nothing would be done by Britain.

At a taxi office on the Falls Road, a few blocks from the Sinn Fein advice centre where a policeman killed three people on Monday, a young man spoke shamelessly about his desire for civil war. The killing seemed to mean nothing to him. Without a trace of irony, he described it as "a way of life". Who cared who got killed, he said. "There has to be something dramatic to end it. I mean, about 3,000 killed in two weeks so that someone will stick their head up and do something."

Just up the road, the frustration came over in a different way from a softly spoken middle-aged woman serving in a small restaurant. She gestured at the road outside where soldiers from Glasgow or Birmingham risk their lives every day.

All we see out there, she said, are funerals. Yesterday it was the doorman of the Sinn Fein centre. The day before it was a Catholic taxi driver and today it was expected to be another of the policeman's victims.

"For the past couple of years things haven't been too bad," she said. "People have been thinking it's almost normal again. But since Christ-

Major calls meeting, page 1

Lawyers to test poll tax loophole

BY DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE first attempt to free a poll tax protester from prison using a loophole in the law on the use of computer evidence in court will be made next week.

Lawyers acting for Michael O'Connell, a man jailed last month by magistrates at Ealing, west London, for two months for refusing to pay the tax, will argue that computer records should not have been accepted as evidence that he had not paid. The application to the High Court for bail pending a judicial review of his case will take place less than six weeks before the government is due to close the loophole.

Figures published yesterday by the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities show that one in four people in London and other big cities has been summonsed for non-payment. Arguments over the admissibility of computer evidence have halted more than 20,000 poll tax cases in England. The government has said it will close the loophole by an amendment to the bill to introduce the council tax.

Law firms report rise in would-be recruits

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS aspiring to follow in the footsteps of leading barristers flocked to the stand hosted by the Bar at the opening yesterday of the two-day Law Fair in London. The Bar was one of the main attractions at the recruitment event, attended by some 50 law firms and other legal employers such as the Crown Prosecution Service and magistrates' courts' service.

The recession is causing funding problems for students. Lee Winetrope, of the Bar Council, said: "We are very, very busy — much more so than before. Students seem very keen to come to the Bar but they are worried about funding during their course. The dearth of the local authority discretionary grant is having an impact."

Clyde and Co, the City law firm, reported being

Nutrition centre sifts food facts

BY KERRY GILL

THE definitive guide to healthy eating, synthesised from the welter of advice and contradictory evidence that daily bombards the public, could soon be produced by the first nutrition centre of its kind in Europe.

Scotland's 15 health boards have funded the post-graduate nutrition and dietetic centre at Aberdeen's Rowett research institute, aimed at helping health professionals to sift through the confusion of dietary opinion and make sure that the public gets the correct information.

Aileen Roberson, director of the centre, said that people had become confused about what they should eat because of often contradictory advice. She said the amount of government literature and recommendations faced by people in the health service added to the problem.

A course at the centre will cover topics including coronary heart disease, obesity, diabetes, nutrition and healthy eating. A training road-show, piloted in Grampian region, is to be extended throughout the UK and Europe and possibly to America.

Reynolds waltzes in as the Boss bows out

BY JAMIE DETTMER

THE era of the Boss in Irish politics passed away yesterday as Charles Haughey, one of the most tenacious and controversial politicians in the Irish republic's history, resigned and was replaced as leader of the main governing Fianna Fail party by Albert Reynolds.

Mr Reynolds, sacked as finance minister nearly three months ago after spearheading an attempt to oust Mr Haughey, gained the support of 61 deputies in the ballot. He needed 39 to win. Mary O'Rourke, the health minister, received ten votes, and six deputies supported Michael Woods, the agriculture minister. Mr Reynolds will become the Republic's ninth prime minister, after being formally nominated in Dail (parliament) as the country's new leader next week.

In a ballot of Fianna Fail's 77 deputies yesterday Mr Reynolds, a dance hall manager turned pet food millionaire and one of Mr Haughey's closest colleagues until he turned critic last autumn, easily won the three-horse race.

The ballot was held hours after Mr Haughey, known in

Ireland as the Boss, formally resigned as party leader. Mr Haughey announced his intention to step down last week after allegations resurfaced about his involvement in a ten-year-old telephone tapping scandal.

Mr Reynolds will be in limbo until Mr Haughey hands in his resignation as prime minister to President Robinson on Monday night.

Mr Reynolds's victory had been a foregone conclusion since last Sunday when Bertie Ahern, his closest rival for the job, announced he would not run.

Yesterday, Dubliners made joke, if nervous, predictions that Mr Haughey would at the last minute change his mind about quitting and put himself forward as a candidate. In 12 years as Fianna Fail leader he survived five serious attempts to oust him.

For many in Fianna Fail,

77 deputies yesterday Mr

Reynolds, a dance hall manager turned pet food millionaire and one of Mr Haughey's closest colleagues until he turned critic last autumn, easily won the three-horse race.

Mr Haughey's successor is not as forceful or colourful a character. Since his sacking last November, Mr Reynolds



Bumpy road ahead: Albert Reynolds waves to supporters after his victory

has been on the so-called "chicken and chips circuit", glad-handing his way

through local parties in an effort to drum up support among the Fianna Fail faithful.

His efforts to draw Mr Haughey's leadership to an end were initially dismissed by the Boss's supporters as

more country and western industry, post and telegraphs and transport.

He is likely to sack up to six

of the current cabinet, possibly including Gerry Collins,

the current foreign minister. He clearly wants to clean up Fianna Fail and distance the party from the accusations of political malpractice

and commercial corruption which have dogged it under Mr Haughey.

Speaking at a press conference after his election, Mr Reynolds said: "I am deeply sad that the day the votes were cast, which should be one of exhilaration and hope, is, instead, a day when I, as an Irishman, must feel diminished by the killings in the north of Ireland. So often have we condemned these murderous acts that we have impoverished the vocabulary of outrage. But we must prove that we have not bankrupted our determination to find a solution to this problem."

Asked whether he would support the reintroduction of internment in Northern Ireland, he said: "We are all aware that this instrument of policy was tried way back in the 1970s. The British government would have to take into account its failings then."

He said that he looked forward to working with John Major to try and end the conflict in Ulster.

The cruelty of the continuing conflict in the north came from "a dwarfed and twisted patriotism which sees inflicted death as instruments of change".

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Home rescue schemes offer scant hope

THE mortgage rescue schemes unveiled by the government just before Christmas may make only a small dent in the 80,000 borrowers facing repossession, a study organised by *The Times* has shown.

Initial estimates that 20,000 borrowers could benefit are unlikely to be met. The figure could be as low as 5,000 by the end of the year unless building societies are prepared to loan money at interest rates lower than 6 per cent.

Research devised by *The Times* in conjunction with Nick Raynsford from the housing consultant Raynsford & Morris, and compiled with the help of the Yorkshire Metropolitan Housing Association, a pioneer of mortgage rescue schemes, shows that only a quarter of the homeowners at which the scheme is aimed will be able to afford the high rents required.

Under the scheme, building societies will offer reduced-rate loans to housing associations to buy properties from borrowers in arrears. It is designed for people who have tried to meet payments in spite of having faced hardship through loss of income. The Yorkshire association analysed 40 couples in difficult

The much-hyped mortgage rescue schemes are unlikely to stop many people losing their homes, reports Rachel Kelly

ties in different parts of the country and found only ten who would qualify for rescue.

The research examined couples for who mortgage rescue was the only chance of staying in their homes. It was based on building societies agreeing loans to housing associations at interest rates of both six and eight per cent. The current base mortgage rate is 10.95 per cent.

Of the 40 case histories examined, only 14 still had equity in their house. They were the most eligible for rescue because they could sell to a housing association and become shared owners.

The Yorkshire association found that even four of those 14 would be unlikely to receive an offer of help because they would still find the rents required (£82.90 to £139.30 a week) unaffordable.

"They would face paying such a substantial proportion of their income that the

scheme would not be feasible," David Ratcliffe, development director, said.

For the 26 couples with no equity "it's bad news", Mr Ratcliffe added. Even a couple living in the cheapest housing area looked at in the research, the east Midlands, would find the rents required barely affordable.

"None of the couples without equity could be helped without some form of extra subsidy," he said. "Some would face paying 44 per cent of their income in rent."

Most couples qualifying for rescue will face such high rents that they will not qualify for housing benefits, because a lot of the rents will be above the limits set by local authorities. The only building society to have produced details of its mortgage-to-rent rescue scheme is the Nationwide which surprised the industry by disclosing that some of its loans to housing associations would have interest rates ranging from 3.5 per cent to 8 per cent. The Nationwide scheme hopes to save 100 families from repossession.

Mr Raynsford said: "Despite all the hype prior to Christmas, only one scheme and a pilot one involving one hundred homes, is all that has emerged. It's extraordinary that no one else has come out with a scheme. The Nationwide scheme works by deciding on affordable rents and then setting very low interest rates to match. That's how they've squared the circle. I'm not sure they could justify the scheme with those interest rates for any significant number of cases."

MORTGAGE RESCUE

Examples show how rescue is difficult for borrowers with little or no equity in their homes. The couple in the North-West benefit because their mortgage is only 60 per cent of house value.

	BAD NEWS	GOOD NEWS
Income per yr	£11,722	13,244
House value	£53,000	76,000
Mortgage	100% £5,000	80 10,000
Rapayments	£115 a wk	82
Interest on loan	6%	6%
Rent after rescue	90.29 a wk	82.00
Status of home owner	Tenant	Shared owner
Outcome	Rent would be 40% of income, no maintenance cost and still unaffordable	Rent would be 33% of income plus maintenance cost, and so unaffordable
Location	Yorkshire & Humberside	South-East
		North-West

per cent many rents would become unaffordable. The figures from *The Times* justify the stand we were taking on affordability in our negotiations with building societies. We calculated that we needed lower rates of interest," Mr Wood said.

Asked whether other building societies would be able to match the low interest rates offered by the Nationwide, Mr Wood said: "I simply couldn't tell you. But I am more hopeful now than I was. I hope the Nationwide deal will be a benchmark."

The association said: "The Nationwide's deal was very generous but other societies may not be so generous."

David Gilchrist, general manager of the country's largest building society, the Halifax, said: "Six to 8 per cent looks like being the top end of the range of negotiations. Housing associations are pressing for something lower than that."

The Woolwich building society has yet to announce the rates it will be charging housing associations, but a spokesman said they would be about 7 per cent.

Of the 80,000 borrowers facing repossession, 60,000 do not qualify to be considered for rescue schemes.

Leading article, page 15

Self-help initiatives need aid, prince says

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales yesterday called for more support for local community initiatives from central and local government and from the private sector.

In a message to mark the launch of the seventh annual Community Enterprise Scheme organised by *The Times*, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community, the prince, who is patron of the scheme, welcomed the increasingly significant role that community-based initiatives were being asked to play in regeneration, but said that there had to be ways of increasing the level of support and training.

The prince's message was read by Lord Scarman, chairman of the scheme, who said

Four are jailed as longest trial ends

Britain's longest trial came to an end after 17 months yesterday with the jailing of four men convicted of fraud and deception.

The trial, at Nottingham crown court, followed a two-year police investigation into the collapse in 1985 of the Britannia Theme Park, near Ilkeston, Derbyshire, which owed more than £9 million. Peter Kellard, aged 57, of Bournemouth, who launched the project through a development group, was jailed for four years after being convicted of 19 charges.

Kellard's close colleague, Edward Dwyer, aged 54, was jailed for two and a half years. Kenneth Page, former director, and John Wright, former chairman, each received six-month sentences.

There were 375 witnesses and the case cost £3 million. The jury used computers to keep track of the evidence.

Woman priest

The Rev Patricia Pinkerton, who ran a Californian Episcopal church for five years, has become minister in charge of two parishes in the Forest of Dean. She will be assisted by a clergyman.

Crew rescued

Three Weymouth fishermen summoned help with a mobile phone after the radio of their stricken vessel failed. They were winched to safety by a navy helicopter before the boat sank two miles off Abbotsbury, Dorset.

Crash award

Colin Middleton, a draughtsman aged 39 who lost his right arm after his motor cycle was in a crash with a car, was awarded £149,998 damages against the driver at the Court of Session, Edinburgh.

Forged coins

Police seized moulds, ingots and 3,000 forged £1 coins in a raid on Castle Mouldings, a factory in Medway, Kent. Two men have been arrested.

Brick by brick

A Victorian chapel threatened with demolition and moved 60 miles from Salisbury, Wiltshire to Pangbourne College boys' school, Berkshire.

Mills brings zeal to battered role

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARBARA Mills, QC, the first woman Director of Public Prosecutions, takes her post at critical time for the criminal justice system. She will have an important role in restoring public confidence battered by miscarriages of justice.

Mrs Mills is likely to do the job with zeal. In just under 18 months as director of the Serious Fraud Office, she has gone about her work with crusading enthusiasm and efficiency, doing much to put the office on the map.

Mrs Mills, aged 51 and a mother of four, has had a higher profile than her predecessor at the fraud office, John Wood. In raising the credit stakes of the office, she has drawn criticism of its methods, and of what some see as over-zealous prosecuting.

Many City lawyers have not forgiven her the prosecution of Alan Keat, of the City firm Travers Smith Brathwaite, in the County NatWest trial. The judge threw the case out. They recall Mrs Mills's comment at a Law Society conference that a professional would not find himself in the dock unless there were a prima facie case against him.

Verdicts are expected soon in the Barlow Clowes and County NatWest cases, investigations crucial to any assessment of the office, set up three years ago. There

have been criticisms of the length of the Barlow Clowes trial and the number of charges on the original indictment. Mrs Mills has exercised more control over the format of prosecutions, but some lawyers say she has not gone far enough.

The fraud office has also been criticised for use of its power to compel people to answer questions under the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

Mrs Mills's motivation has not been prosecution for its own sake. It has been concern for victims who have lost money, which she cites as justification for what have been called the fraud office's "draconian" investigative powers. After taking over the fraud office, Mrs Mills found herself heading high-profile cases such as Guinness. The fraud office has also been investigating the Maxwell affair.

Educated at St Helen's School, Northwood, London, and Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where she read law, Mrs Mills made her Bar career largely as a prosecutor. She was seen as "good and solid", rather than brilliant. She was junior Treasury counsel at the Central Criminal Court from 1981 to 1986. She was also second prosecuting counsel in the Guinness trial, and defended Winston Silcott.

Mrs Mills has to restore confidence in the Crown Prosecution Service after the resignation of Sir Allan Green, QC, after kerb-crawling allegations. Service lawyers will be delighted, not least because Mrs Mills will continue their fight for rights of audience in the crown court.

Mrs Mills has said that she believes more use can be made of pre-trial reviews to identify issues and of multi-professional investigations by teams of lawyers, accountants and police.

Mills chosen, Page 1
Leading article, page 15



NO PRIZES FOR GUESSING BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING CAR.

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Mills chosen, Page 1
Leading article, page 15

Four
jailed
longer
trial en-

Doctors call for fuller testing

Africa link detected among Aids mothers

BY THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THREE out of four pregnant women found by a London hospital to be infected with the Aids virus were of African origin. The rapid spread of the virus in Asia also makes it likely that a growing number of cases will occur among the Asian community here, according to doctors.

The evidence, reported in *The Lancet* today, gives insights into the heterosexual spread of HIV and suggests that many cases are imported unwittingly into Britain. The researchers call for all pregnant women in areas of London and other cities with high rates of infection to be encouraged to take an HIV blood test on a named basis, rather than anonymously as now, regardless of their ethnic origins.

Junga Banarvala, professor of virology at St Thomas's Hospital, southeast London, who led the study, said yesterday: "Such a programme would help in prevention and surveillance of the epidemic."

Transplant drug controls asthma

IONAL Heart and Lung Hospitals in London.

Andrew Alexander, a clinical research fellow, and colleagues at the hospital say in the journal that improvements occurred throughout the 12-week study period and might have continued if the treatment had been extended. One patient, a woman aged 47, could now run for a bus and go dancing, which she has been unable to do for many years.

Barry Kay, head of the hospitals' allergy and clinical immunology department, and one of the co-authors of the study, said yesterday: "High doses of steroids have serious side effects, such as diabetes, and do not always control adequately severe, intractable forms of asthma."

He said that cyclosporin could also cause dangerous side effects, such as liver damage. The long-term safety and efficacy for asthmatics still had to be determined. "The real importance of our discovery is that it opens the way for a new class of anti-asthma drugs that are more selective and less toxic in suppressing the activity of T-cells."

The finding could open the way to the development of a new range of drugs which, like cyclosporin, suppress the activity of T-cells that are important in the body's natural defences. These cells have been found to be activated in chronic asthma.

The research suggests that new drugs could benefit many of the 200,000 asthmatics who depend on high doses of steroids to control their condition. Cyclosporin improved lung function and reduced the number of severe attacks in a group of patients at the Royal Brompton Na-



Roddick: ordered to remove factory sign

Body shop chief loses sign fight

Anita Roddick, managing director of the Body Shop store chain, has been ordered to remove a billboard put up without planning permission outside the firm's factory in Littlehampton, West Sussex.

The board displays messages reflecting Mrs Roddick's philosophy. Residents say it is an eyesore that distracts drivers. Her appeal to the environment department against Arun district council's planning refusal has failed. The council said: "Unless she takes it down soon she will face prosecution."

M-way closed

A nine-mile stretch of the M50 was closed after cracks were found in a bridge support on the Severn near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire. Police said that rush hour traffic jams in the area were expected for at least a week.

Rape hoaxer

Wilma Wetherow, aged 22, of no fixed address, was jailed for three months by Bow Street magistrates court, London, for hoax phone calls in which she told police she was being raped.

Body found

Police divers recovered a body thought to be that of Kenneth Hales, aged 45, missing after the capsizing of a lifeboat in which another man died at Hull on Wednesday.

We are extremely anxious to avoid what used to be seen as a gay plague being regarded as a black plague.'

"The Aids virus knows no racial barriers. It is not a question of the colour of your skin but where you have been, and what you have done there. It would be invidious to target HIV testing at specific ethnic categories." That would fail to identify any spread of infection beyond such groups, and selective screening was known to be inefficient, he said.

The report is a sequel to a finding by some of the same researchers of a ninefold increase in HIV infection among women attending the hospital's antenatal clinics between 1988 and 1990. A new analysis of their blood samples shows that ten out of 13 HIV-positive women — 77 per cent — were of African origin. Nine of the ten also had malaria antibodies, suggesting that they had recently been in a tropical country. In a group

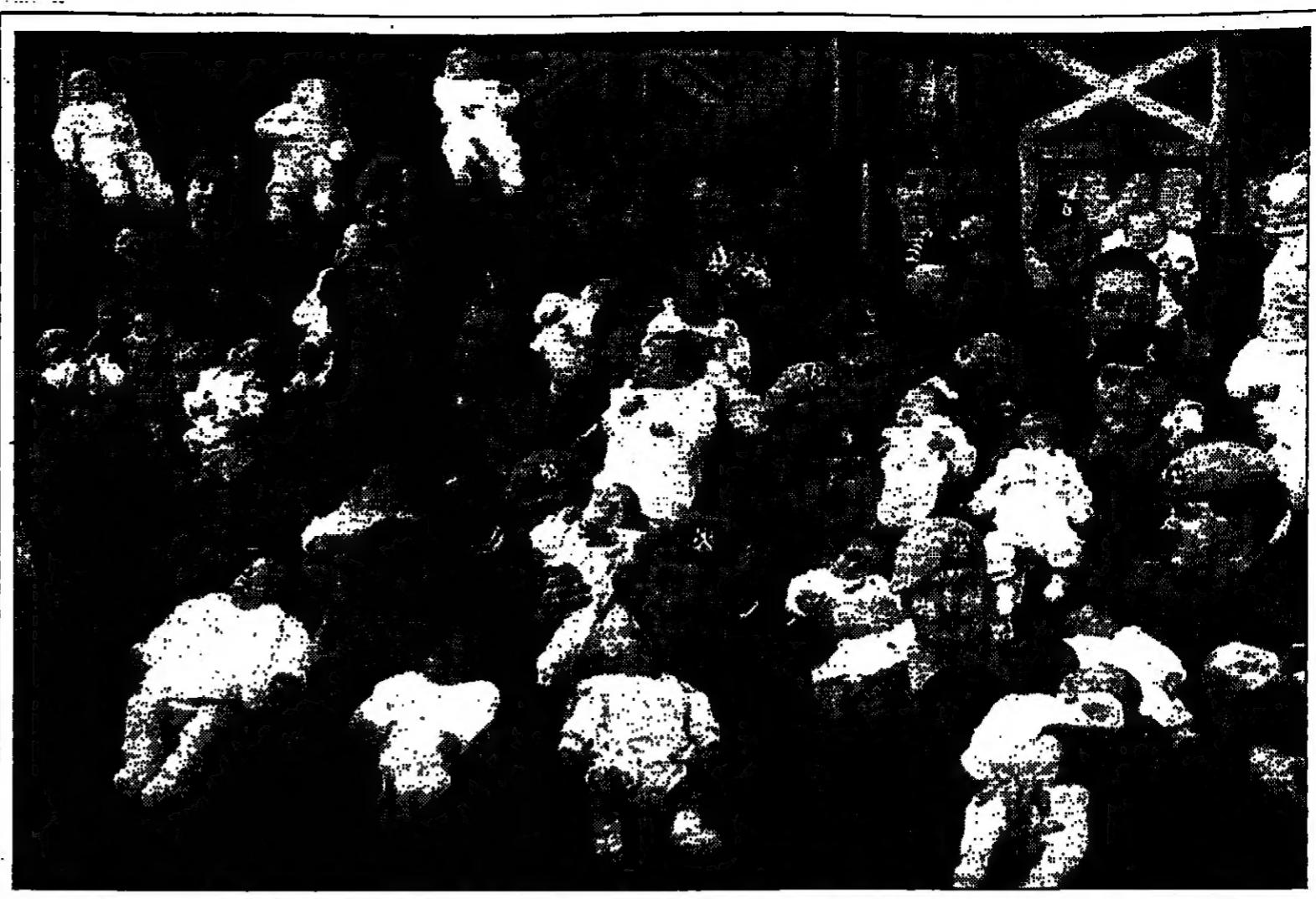
of women whose ethnic origins were unknown, the five who were HIV-positive also had malaria antibodies.

Professor Banatvala said that there should be further studies in inner London to identify risk categories and to see if HIV spreads beyond them, so that prevention could be targeted accurately.

"With the increasing spread of HIV in many parts of Africa and Asia, it is obvious that people moving between them and Britain are at increased risk of becoming infected and importing that infection into the UK."

"We need much more accurately targeted methods of monitoring the spread here. If pregnant women agree to be tested on an identifiable basis, we can offer those who are infected counselling, support, and care for their babies if they decide to continue with the pregnancy."

Diary, page 14
Health, L&T section, page 6



On parade: soldiers of the 1st British Tank Regiment showing off their babies at Fallingbostel, Germany. Homecoming celebrations after the Gulf war resulted in a baby boom with 137 births among wives of troops based in Germany

High in polyunsaturates. Low in saturates. Virtually no cholesterol. (Just in case you thought it was butter.)

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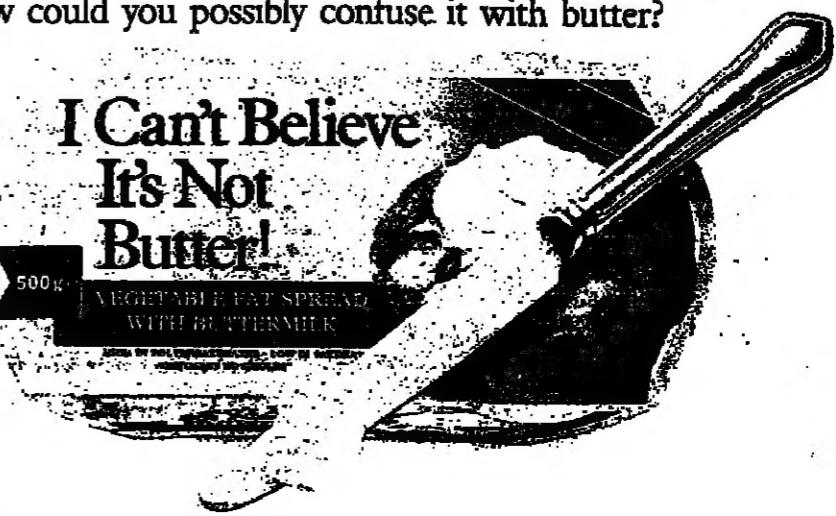
True, we do make it with buttermilk. We'd even claim it has a fresh butter-like taste.

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The difference is, it comes with the highs and lows.



Labour condemns 'deceit' over slump

BY PETER MULLIGAN AND JOHN WINDER

LABOUR last night accused parts of the press of deceit and hypocrisy for proclaiming the Tory message of economic recovery to their readers while reserving the real story for shareholders and directors.

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry spokesman, said ministers were relying on a huge public relations offensive from some tabloids and from party advertising campaigns to conceal their economic record.

During a Labour-inspired debate on the recession, he scored Conservative sightings of an upturn and spoke of the "recovery by phrase-makers" dreamed up over a working breakfast which "even the messengers do not believe".

Mr Brown provoked loud laughter among his backbenchers by quoting the words of *The Sun*: "It looks good. Britain's on the way. We are OK in the UK. If that's depression, let's have more of it."

He then quoted from the report last September to the shareholders of News International, the paper's owners: "Economic conditions as they affect the media are not expected to improve during the next year."

Mr Brown cited Associated Newspapers, owners of the *Daily Mail*: "Such limited signs of recovery in the UK

economy as are visible remain patchy and do not give us any grounds for optimism."

He was the chief executive of Saatchi and Saatchi, the firm which is handling the election advertising campaign for Conservative Central Office, as saying: "I do not expect trading to be any easier this year. The length and severity of the current recession are unresolved."

The entire Tory propaganda machine made a sharp distinction between the message it put to voters and the one that went to directors and shareholders, Mr Brown said. "One truth for the public who they are prepared to deceive and another truth for directors and shareholders and the City audience on whom they depend. The public are being treated with contempt."

Mr Brown rejected John Major's assertion that Britain was caught up in a world recession. "There is no world recession. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that the prime minister is condemned by his own words as economically illiterate," he said.

He ridiculed ministerial forecasts of recovery, declared they could not be trusted and rejected accusations that he was talking Britain down.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, said that

the preconditions of sustained recovery were low inflation, reduced interest rates and renewed confidence, but Labour policy was tailor-made to undermine all three.

Labour policies would send inflation soaring; Labour would be obliged to put up interest rates, and commentators differed only on the extent to which they would have to raise them. All nine important research houses which had analysed the impact of a Labour government forecast higher interest rates.

Every Labour government had had to face a choice of whether to maintain the present parity of the pound or to devalue. In the past every Labour government had first put up interest rates, then "bottled out" and devalued, Mr Lilley said.

The Labour proposal for tax allowances for investment in new technology and "genuine innovation" meant Inland Revenue having to vet every investment in plant and machinery to decide whether each piece of equipment was sufficiently sophisticated. "A more guaranteed way to delay every investment is hard to imagine but that is the situation."

When every vote is regarded as crucial and the pairing system breaks down the whip can rarely afford to show any sympathy for those in hospital or the recently bereaved, as

Take two aspirin and go to the lobby

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE spectre of ambulances decanting ailing MPs into a hung Parliament has spurred a parliamentary enquiry to consider a system of proxy voting.

As part of their reforms of Commons working practices, MPs on the select committee have been investigating a scheme to record MP's votes while absent in limited circumstances. They are expected to demand a separate enquiry by the procedure committee into the implications.

The parties' business managers, including John MacGregor, the leader of the House, favour informal "usual channels" to deal with sick MPs.

In recent years the large majority Conservative governments have had little need to drag MPs from their sickbeds. Many MPs are also "paired" for routine votes to exempt them from taking part in every division.

The committee now has one eye on the prospect of a hung Parliament or narrow majority, as happened at times during the 1960s and 1970s. Its report will be published early next month and it will press for a decision by the Commons before the election.

When every vote is regarded as crucial and the pairing system breaks down the whip can rarely afford to show any sympathy for those in hospital or the recently bereaved, as

the committee chairman Michael Jopling found when an Opposition whip during the Wilson years.

After the breakdown of the pairing system in the late 1970s, many divisions hung on the attendance of all 650 MPs, however. Sir Alfred Brougham, the then Labour MP for Barley and Morecambe, was one of those brought in by ambulance to support the Callaghan government during its final weeks. The Labour leadership refused to wheel in Sir Alfred on March 30, 1979, as a result it lost the confidence vote by one. Sir Alfred died four days later.

The problem for the Commons committee has been to limit the scheme to genuine cases. Two disputed areas are the absence of MPs through family bereavement and women MPs when heavily pregnant or within days of giving birth.

The former prime minister Edward Heath had the committee how much he disliked press-ganging half-dead MPs into the division lobbies when he was chief whip in the 1950s. However, he opposed a proxy voting system because, he argued, absent MPs would not have listened to the arguments in the chamber. As Mr Heath will be 76 and in his 42nd parliamentary year after the election, MPs on the committee will no doubt have his welfare in mind when considering a scheme.



House doctor: John MacGregor favours "usual channels" to deal with sick MPs

AROUND THE LOBBY

Hunt bill loses support

John Major will not be voting for the private member's bill to ban hunting with dogs when it comes before the Commons next Friday.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West, thanked the prime minister for allowing ministers a free vote on a bill that would protect deer, hares and foxes. Mr Major said the bill went a good deal wider than Mr Banks had suggested and that he would not be supporting it.

Beefing up the army

Ministers are looking at ways of providing British beef for the armed forces rather than meat imported from South America. John Gummer, the agriculture minister, said at question time. David Clark, his shadow, had asked him how the defence ministry could import thousands of tonnes when almost one million tonnes were already in intervention in Europe.

Moscow trip

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the former foreign secretary, is to lead an Inter-Parliamentary Union delegation to Moscow and Kiev next week. The group, which includes Ann Clwyd, the shadow overseas aid minister, hopes to meet political leaders and members of the public.

Roads pledge

The transport department will announce plans later this month to improve maintenance on motorways and to speed up the backlog of essential repairs. Christopher Chope, the roads and traffic minister, said in a written reply.

Land grants

The government's derelict land grant for England is to be increased by £1.6 million in the next financial year. Sir

George Young, the planning minister, said in a written reply. The money, most of which goes to local authorities, is sufficient to fund the reclamation of about 3,700 acres.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's bill: Timeshare Bill, second reading.

Week ahead

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Offshore Safety Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Further and Higher Education Bill, second reading and timetable motion.

Wednesday: Proceedings on Consolidated Fund (No 2) Bill, Museums and Galleries Bill, second reading.

Thursday: Army Bill, second reading.

Friday: Private member's bill: Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill, second reading.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Asylum Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Education (Schools) Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debate on weapons of mass destruction.

Thursday: Coal Industry Bill committee. Debate on human rights in Northern Ireland.

Counties may get new seats

By ROBERT MORGAN

THE Boundary Commission has recommended the creation of three more parliamentary constituencies in Hampshire and Berkshire. If the recommendations are endorsed by Parliament, the Tories would almost certainly gain three extra MPs from these true blue shires.

No change will be made before the forthcoming election and they might not be in place for the following one.

The commission is required by statute to review boundaries shift. It tries to arrange boundaries so that there are 60,000-70,000 voters in each seat. The Parliamentary Constituencies Act, 1986 lays down that, as far as possible, county and London borough boundaries are to be followed and electorates are to be as near equal as possible.

Berkshire has seven constituencies and its present electorate indicates it should have 7,922 seats. The commission suggests an eighth seat, Bracknell, Hampshire, the commission says, should have two new seats, bringing its total to 17. Unless additional seats are created the average electorate in each of its existing seats would be 79,378.

With 17 seats the average will be 70,039. The changes will divide the seat of New Forest into East and West, and a new seat of Meon Valley will be created.

Although the Isle of Wight, on an electorate basis, should have more than one but fewer than two MPs, the commission recommends no change.

The commission is reviewing all seats in England and has to submit its plans for the whole country between 1993 and 1998. The last wholesale changes were made between the 1979 and 1983 elections, amid controversy over the change of name for many familiar seats.

Olympic protest

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TORY backbencher has complained to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, about money being spent on advertising the European Commission at international sporting events.

Tony Favell, MP for Stockport, wrote to Señor Samaranch yesterday saying £8 million had been committed as a grant for public relations projects at the Olympics.

"Could you please let me have your assurance that the European Commission will not be permitted to use the Olympics as a political vehicle?"

The Olympic charter says: "No kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in the Olympic areas."

The IOC rejected a request by Jacques Delors, the commission president, that he open the Winter Games to



Favell: questioning EC advertising in sport

morrow, and his suggestion that the 12 EC nations march together, wearing the EC symbol. The committee did accept a reported £10 million fee to allow the commission some involvement — as yet unspecified — in the opening ceremony.

David Miller, page 32

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Hunt
lose
Supply**Security council retains sanctions****Saddam challenges terms of ceasefire**

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq, apparently gambling that he can outlast John Major and President Bush, has launched a challenge to the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

Baghdad has rejected outright a United Nations plan for the long-term monitoring of its arms industry, and has pulled out of talks with the UN on resuming oil sales to pay for humanitarian supplies. The Iraqi position amounts to a clear violation of mandatory UN resolutions, and once again puts the country on a collision course with the security council.

In their bimonthly review of the UN embargo, the council yesterday decided not to relax the comprehensive sanctions against Iraq. It issued a statement saying it was "disurbed by the lack of Iraqi co-operation", particularly in the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, talks on a limited oil sale and the repatriation of Kuwaiti detainees and property.

Diplomats said further action was possible against Iraq, although they were uncertain just how to proceed. "Stand by for further news," said Thomas Pickering, the American ambassador, after reading the security council statement to the press.

A senior Western diplomat said: "We are gradually moving towards some difficult



Al-Anbari: will not be pursuing oil sale talks

authorised Iraq last August to sell \$1.6 billion (£900 million) of oil over a six-month period so that it could buy food and other essential supplies for its population. But the resolution allowing the sale required about one-third of the total to go towards financing the UN compensation fund for Gulf war victims and the UN programme to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

After months of stalling, Iraq opened talks about a possible oil sale with the United Nations in Vienna last month. However, Abdul Amir al-Anbari, the Iraqi ambassador at the UN, now says that Baghdad considers UN restrictions on the proposed oil sale unacceptable and will not pursue the talks.

The head of the UN special commission charged with disarming Iraq is due to report today that Iraq has refused to provide a detailed report on its defence industries, as required by the security council.

Senior Iraqi officials told the UN delegation sent to Baghdad to discuss the dispute that Iraq "would not make any further declarations" on its arms production plans. At the same time, Iraq has "cancelled" a second round of talks with the UN about resuming oil sales.

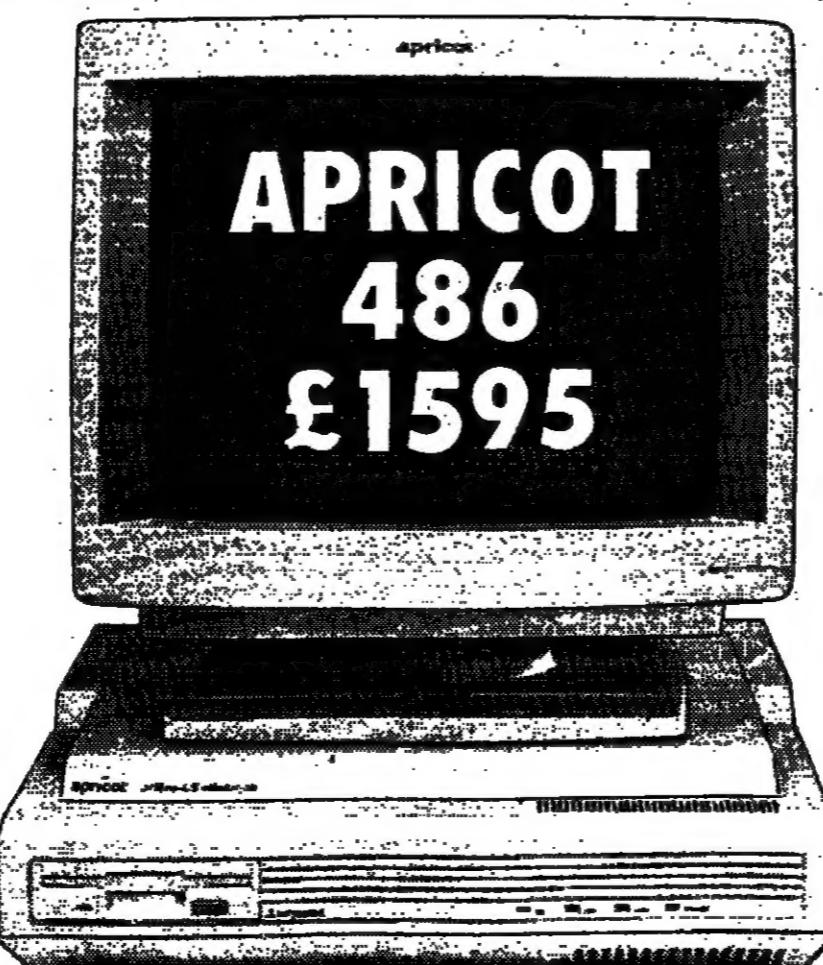
The security council

said yesterday that army units had been deployed recently along the main Baghdad highway to Amara, south of the Iraqi capital, after Shia demonstrations.

Novelty line: a woman demonstrating a mobile telephone yesterday claimed by its Japanese maker, NEC Corporation, to be the world's smallest. "It is very convenient - small and light enough to slip into a shirt pocket," an NEC official said. The P4 weighs 7.76oz, is

0.83in thick, 2.2in wide and 6in long. The telephone will make its debut in America this month and will be marketed in more than 30 countries, though not in Japan. Kotaro Kato, an NEC manager, said it will cost about \$1,800 (£990) and NEC expects to sell 60,000 a month. (Reuters)

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Paymaster looks for UN rewardFROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

JAPAN is convinced it deserves a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council and, while anxious not to be seen twisting arms, aims for a seat in 1995, the UN's 50th anniversary year.

At last week's security council summit, Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, dropped hints about Japan's ambitions and proposed discussions on the structure of the UN in the light of the new post-cold war world order.

His hints were tentative and Mr Miyazawa received the usual reminders that the inclusion of Japan in the security council's permanent membership would require an unprecedented change in the UN charter.

However, Japan takes solace in the fact that the validity of the council's structure, which Japan believes obsolete, is at last coming under scrutiny from the rest of the world.

Tokyo is one of the UN's chief paymasters (contributing more than Britain and France combined), yet is blocked from permanent membership and denied "reasonable" executive representation in the UN.

Korean plotters executedFROM AFP
IN TOKYO

NORTH Korea has executed more than ten people for a plot against Kim Jong Il, who took over the country's military command in December from his father, President Kim Il Sung, according to a Japanese newspaper.

The *Sankei Shimbun* reported from Seoul that among those executed were three middle-ranking military officers, including a regimental commander, and an unspecified number of officials from the public security ministry. The newspaper said Western intelligence learnt of the coup attempt from Chinese sources. The incident took place last year but no precise date or other details were made available.

The intelligence sources said rumours were circulating in the Chinese-Korean border area that the plotters tried to replace Mr Kim Jong Il with Mr Kim Sung Il, the president's illegitimate child. North Korea's news agency issued rare photographs of Mr Kim Jong Il as part of the buildup to his 50th birthday on February 16 amid rumours that he would soon succeed his father as state president.

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For just £1595, for example, you can now buy the XEN-LS 486SX, with 4Mb RAM, 50Mb hard disk, high resolution 1024 x 768 Super VGA graphics capability, Windows 3.0 and mouse.

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Dell Systems 486D/20	4Mb	50Mb	SVGA	£1764
Tandon MCS	4Mb	40Mb	VGA	£1599
Compaq Deskpro Model 60	4Mb	60Mb	SVGA	£2598

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And faced with the choice of the cheapest way to produce our systems or the best, we always opt for the latter. Then we apply our ingenuity to building them cost-effectively.

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16MHz 386SX	1Mb	50Mb	£1095	£1295	N/A
16MHz 386SX	1Mb	100Mb	£1295	£1495	N/A
20MHz 386SX	2Mb	50Mb	£1195	£1395	£1495
20MHz 386SX	2Mb	100Mb	£1395	£1595	£1695
20MHz 486SX	4Mb	50Mb	£1595	£1795	£1895
20MHz 486SX	4Mb	100Mb	£1795	£1995	£2095
20MHz 486SX	4Mb	240Mb	£2145	£2345	£2445

All models include 1.44Mb floppy drive, keyboard, MS-DOS, hard disk models also include Windows 3.0 & mouse.

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All systems include 2.5 hours external NiCd battery, universal AC adaptor/charger, carry bag, MS-DOS, Laplink software.

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Inkatha 'organised attacks on ANC'

Gang man says police aided black violence

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

A CATALOGUE of intrigue and murder in South Africa's black townships, allegedly involving policemen, is emerging from a judicial commission of enquiry into political violence.

A young man testified yesterday that the Inkatha Freedom party, led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, recruited members of a criminal gang known as the Black Cats to attack supporters of the African National Congress with the backing of Inkatha gunmen. The man, a former member of the gang, said they had been provided with firearms and trained by a man with a South African police identification card, before embarking on a killing spree in Wesselton. On one occasion, he said, they firebombed a lawyer's office at the suggestion of a local policeman.

The witness, whose identity was not disclosed, spoke of tension between the Black

Cats and a civic association allied to the ANC, which led to violence and ultimately the gang's recruitment by Inkatha. According to his testimony, the gang was formed in Wesselton early in 1990, supposedly as a vigilante group to combat crime. However, some members turned to assault and robbery, incurring the ire of the local civic association.

When the home of a gang member was burned down, the Black Cats assaulted civic leaders and were in turn attacked by civic supporters and a large group from another township. At this point, an official of an Inkatha-affiliated trade union offered the gang support if it joined Inkatha. A group of armed men from Ulundi in the KwaZulu tribal stronghold, arrived to escort a funeral procession for a gang member killed in the clashes. They encountered a funeral party for an ANC supporter and

opened fire on the crowd, killing two people.

In August 1990, most of the Black Cats were taken to KwaZulu for training about firearms and abduction techniques. On their return to Wesselton, Inkatha was formally launched in the township and Chris Ngwenya, the gang leader, was elected to its local committee. He is now the chairman of the Inkatha youth brigade in the nearby town of Ermelo.

The gang then stepped up its attacks on ANC supporters with guns, grenades and knives, and gained the upper hand with the assistance of a policeman, the witness said. Funerals continued to precipitate clashes.

A peace agreement signed by Inkatha and the ANC last year has failed to curb political violence in the townships. Police said yesterday that four people were shot dead in their beds in a Natal township by unidentified men with AK47 rifles.

Her complaints about government neglect and the problems of adjusting to life



At bay: Palestinian women yesterday trying to stop an Israeli policeman from arresting one of them at an east Jerusalem protest rally. Six women out of about 50 at the rally were held.

Israel's poor pin hope on election

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN PETAH TIKA, ISRAEL

IF YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, ever suffers re-election jitters, then the muddy caravan site located on the edge of Petah Tikva deserves to figure in his campaign manager's bad dreams.

Buffed by the wind and rain of a winter gale, the 240 mobile homes at Kfar Sykin provide at best minimum housing for the Soviet immigrant and homeless Israeli families living in cramped conditions behind paper-thin glass fibre walls.

"We have never regretted coming to Israel," said Yelena, who left her native Uzbekistan two years ago with her husband and two daughters to escape the outbreak of bloody ethnic riots. "We are proud of being Israelis, but we are facing severe problems with finding jobs and somewhere decent to live."

Unemployment, already at a record level of more than 10 per cent, is rising

steadily, more than half a million Israelis are below the poverty line, and badly needed American financial assistance, in the form of \$10 billion (\$5.5 billion) in loan guarantees, has been delayed for nearly a year because of Israel's expansion of its Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"We will probably have to live in this caravan for four or five years, and yet the government spends its money in areas where no one wants to live," Yelena said.

While the complaints of the new immigrants have become a routine part of Israeli life, suddenly Yelena and other members of Isra-

el's disgruntled underclass are discovering that politicians are ready to listen, particularly since elections are planned for June 23, when the 250,000 first-time Soviet immigrant voters could decide as many as ten Knesset seats, enough to make or break the future Israeli government.

Refugees threaten Kenya

FROM SAM KILEY
IN NAIROBI

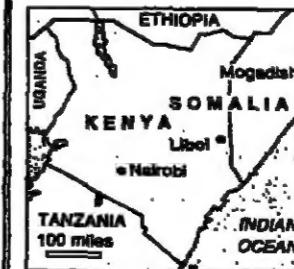
TENS of thousands of refugees from the civil war in Somalia have fled to Kenya, threatening the country's stability and putting a severe strain on already depleted food stocks. The United Nations said yesterday.

Silvester Awiye, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Nairobi, said the number of Somali refugees in Kenya had risen from 15,000 to 90,000 since the civil war restarted last November. Every day 300 people, mostly children, were dying in the Liboi camp on the Kenya-Somali border, he said.

Many of the Somalis arriving in Kenya were heavily armed, and although the Kenyan army had attempted to take their guns away, Mr Awiye said that shooting could be heard every night in the camps. Two days ago a five-day-old child was killed by a stray bullet in Liboi and last week a Somali aid worker was shot by robbers in Ifo, the main UN camp, about 60 miles west of the frontier.

Kenya already faces a severe food shortage after drought in the east and north of the country, poor harvests, and bad management of the national cereals and produce board, which this week announced that it would have to import 1.1 million tonnes of maize by the end of March.

The World Food Programme estimates that the number of Somali refugees in Kenya will have swelled to 140,000 within two months. At present they are arriving at a rate of 1,000 a day.



Egyptians question 'spy pair'

Cairo: Egyptian security officials claimed yesterday that two Israeli Arabs detained on suspicion of spying for Israel had tried to cultivate a senior Egyptian military officer who alerted the authorities (Christopher Walker writes).

The two, a man aged 41 and his language student daughter, were still being interrogated yesterday awaiting formal charges. Their arrest in Cairo on Monday poses a serious threat to Israeli-Egyptian relations. The semi-official Egyptian press said both had visited Egypt a number of times on tourist visas.

City cut off

Algiers: New clashes were reported between security forces and Muslim fundamentalists in Batna, where three days of fighting have claimed 17 lives. The eastern Algerian city of 200,000 people was cut off from the rest of the country. (AP)

Camp toll rises

Hong Kong: Police searching a gutted hut for clues after Tuesday's arson attack at a Hong Kong camp for Vietnamese boat people found the body of a child, taking the death toll to 22. A group of 92 Vietnamese were charged with rioting. (Reuters)

Voters clash

Dhaka: At least 25 people were killed in Bangladesh in clashes between rival groups which wrecked voting in some 300 constituencies during the fortnight of mayoral elections. More than 1,500 people were arrested for causing unrest and vote-rigging.

Haiti reward

Port-au-Prince: Brigadier-General Raoul Cedras, aged 42, who led the September 30 coup that ousted President Aristide, was promoted to lieutenant-general. The general emphasised the need to "preserve independence at any price". (AFP)

Rescue riddle for a crumbling Sphinx

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

A JUDICIAL investigation concluded yesterday that the fall of a 660lb slab of stone from the right shoulder of the battered Sphinx in February 1989 was the work of nature and not man.

The Egyptian committee's long-awaited report exonerated the late Dr Ahmed Kadri. He was dismissed from his post as chief of the Egyptian antiquities organisation for allegedly causing the damage by permitting shoddy restoration work on the 4,600-year-old statue which guards the pyramids at Giza.

The committee of archaeological experts and university professors which carried out the investigation was established after an American Egyptologist made a formal complaint to the police about the fall, the most serious disaster to happen to the statue for many years.

The finding took into account blame placed by experts on a range of factors for the accelerating deterioration

of the enigmatic creature which has, according to Dr Sayid Tawfiq, Dr Kadri's successor, disintegrated more in the past 50 years than in all its previous centuries combined.

These include the effect of atmospheric and underground pollutants from overpopulated Cairo and vibrations from work in nearby quarries. "Scholars from Egypt and around the world have given us good advice," Dr Tawfiq said, "but nobody has been able to come up with a sure way to save our wonderful Sphinx."

In a new attempt to save the statue, Farouk Hosni, the culture minister, has convened a conference in Cairo this month of the world's leading experts on the Sphinx. It will include scientists from America, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland and Canada who will be asked to suggest ways of saving the country's most famous fact.

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR ETHIOPIA	BANGLADESH TIDAL WAVE APPEAL	ERITREA AND TIGRAY EMERGENCY
URGENT APPEAL FOR ERITREA	MOZAMBIQUE EMERGENCY APPEAL	CRISIS IN AFRICA APPEAL
MEXICO EARTHQUAKE DISASTER	SUDAN EMERGENCY APPEAL	BANGLADESH CYCLONE DISASTER APPEAL

Every year we see appeal after appeal on behalf of the Third World. Why is this?

Is it because there are more disasters in the Third World?

No. Earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and droughts happen throughout the world. But in the developed countries, life quickly returns to normal.

In the Third World, on the other hand, disasters are compounded by poverty, with desperate consequences.

For example, last year in Bangladesh, a cyclone killed over 50,000 people. This was largely because families were forced to live on land prone to flooding because they were too poor to live anywhere safer.

Turning back to the original question, perhaps then there are more appeals because there are more wars?

There are wars all around the globe, but it is in the poorest countries that they have the most catastrophic consequences. For example, in Ethiopia, the war drove people from their once fertile farms, causing food

shortages and widespread starvation.

Here's another reason that's often given for the Third World's troubles: they don't know how to run their countries.

But the fact is, governments everywhere are fallible. However, the Third World pays much more dearly for its mistakes.

Look at the Third World Debt - a mistake made jointly by the countries that did the lending and those that did the borrowing. No one gains, but the poor lose more than most.

For example, in 1989 in Sudan, hundreds of thousands of people starved to death. Yet at the same time, the Sudanese government gave \$97,000,000 to the West in debt repayments.

By now it should be clear that the Third World's agonies won't go away as long as the underlying poverty acts as an amplifier for problems like disasters, war and economic set-backs.

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We have produced a leaflet about Third World poverty and the ways in which you can help relieve it. Please send for it.

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Madrid bomb blast heightens fears of Olympic terror

FROM FRANK SMITHS IN MADRID

FOUR soldiers and a civilian died when a car bomb exploded in the heart of Madrid yesterday, increasing fears that Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, is determined to mar this year's Olympic Games. The morning rush-hour blast also wounded six people, one of them seriously.

The soldiers killed — three officers and their driver — were in a van which was passing when the bomb exploded just outside an army building, the Captaincy-General of Madrid. The fifth victim was a civil servant who worked for the army.

The bomb was a 90lb shrapnel-packed device. By

nightfall, no organisation had admitted planting it, but the assumption is that it was Eta's work. The blast was the first terrorist incident in Madrid this year. Last month, Eta gunmen murdered five people in attacks in Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia.

The explosion has intensified fears not only for the Olympics in Barcelona but for two other international events in Spain this year: the Expo '92 World Fair in Seville and Madrid's period as European city of culture. Earlier this week, the mayors of the three cities were called to the capital to meet José Luis Corcera, the interior minister, to discuss the security problems posed by terrorism.

The defence ministry has already detailed members of the armed forces to co-operate with the police during the Olympics and Expo '92. But, as Pasqual Maragall, the mayor of Barcelona, admitted yesterday, the big security problem remains the five-month run-up to the games.

Felipe González, the prime minister, called a press conference yesterday soon after the explosion to announce that he was asking the attorney-general to investigate whether apologists for Eta should be allowed to continue with impunity to defend the



González will not bow to "bloody blackmail"



Fire brigades workers making the final preparations yesterday for the Olympic torch at Albertville, France, which will be lit tomorrow at the start of the 16th winter Games. In a break with tradition, the flame will not be lit directly. Instead, a runner will

climb 80 steps and use the Olympic torch, lit in Greece, to start a ball of fire burning along a cable up to the huge bowl 100ft above the ground. Organisers were due to announce yesterday who will light the flame. It was anticipated that the honour would go

Chores keep the hausfrau happy

FROM PATRICK MISTER
IN BONN

IN GERMANY, a country often thought to be in the front line of the battle for equality of the sexes, the kitchen is still a woman's place — and not many German women are bothered about it. That at least is the impression given by a survey presented yesterday by Angela Merkel, Bonn's women's affairs minister.

Cleaning the house is also still considered by many to be a woman's job, if the survey is to be believed: 77 per cent of women in western Germany clean the home without help from the man in the house, and 78 per cent do the cooking without any help from their male partner. The figures for eastern Germany are 70 per cent and 74 per cent respectively.

"Nine per cent of women in the west [of Germany] and 7 per cent in the east believe the man should do more in the house," the IPOS research institute said in the study commissioned by the ministry. Yet 60 per cent of the 2,633 Germans interviewed believe more should be done for equality.

Croatia gives way over peace force

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK
AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

CROATIA yesterday dropped its objections to the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers in the former Yugoslav republic, leaving only one rebel Serb leader blocking the implementation of the plan.

Franjo Tuđman, Croatia's president, informed the UN Security Council that he was now ready to accept the deployment of 10,000 UN peacekeepers in the three Serb enclaves in Croatia. Diplomats here said that Mirko Babić, the leader of the Serb enclave of Krajina, was the only remaining opponent of the UN "blue berets". Several senior Western envoys expressed hope that Mr Babić could be brought into line by pressure from the Serb-dominated rump federal presidency in Belgrade.

Mr Tuđman had initially accepted the UN proposal to create UN-protected areas in Krajina and eastern and western Slavonia, where the majority of Croatia's 600,000 Serbs live. But when member states of the European Community recognised Croatia last month, he insisted that the Zagreb government retain control over local government and the police in any UN-protected areas. His change of policy was an embarrassment to Germany,

which led the move to recognise Croatia, and he came under intense German pressure to revert to his original stance. He did so in a letter to the security council less than an hour before it was to meet to discuss a draft resolution calling on both sides to accept the UN peacekeeping plan unconditionally.

In an attempt to head off the violent disintegration of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the European Community is to broker talks next week in Sarajevo, the republic's capital. The move was announced yesterday after Lord Carrington, the chairman of the EC peace conference on Yugoslavia, held talks in Sarajevo on the second day of his trip to the country.

Despite the bitter invective traded between the leaders of the three groups that make up Bosnia — Croats, Serbs and Muslims — they have never stopped talking. The leader of the main Serb party, Radovan Karadžić, said:

"Carrington said 'maybe you could speed up talks if they were supervised by the EC'."

It was not clear yesterday if Lord Carrington, already known to be exasperated by the practical collapse of the existing EC peace talks,

would chair the Bosnian conference himself.

Dogs of war are cheated of prey

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ZAGREB

The outbreak of peace in Yugoslavia could leave hundreds of foreign mercenaries, most of whom threw in their lot with Croatia, out of a job.

Scores of disgruntled soldiers of fortune, evidently feeling they are not getting enough fighting, have begun drifting away from the static front lines at the Slavonian towns of Osijek and Vinkovci since Yugoslavia's longest lasting ceasefire came into effect on January 3.

Some volunteers believe the Zagreb authorities would not be unhappy to see the often unpredictable foreign warriors depart, now that the hastily formed Croatian army has achieved a modicum of organisation.

"I don't think it will even be 'thanks and goodbye,'" said Ken from Portsmouth gloomily over gin and tonic at Zagreb's Esplanade hotel, a favourite haunt of mercenaries. "Just 'goodbye', and the Croats did it on their own. I don't think I will be staying much longer."

One group of Britons was sent on enforced leave from Vinkovci last week to languish at the Baranya barracks in Zagreb. In the beer cellar

under Osijek's main square, "Captain Carl" from Liverpool, second-in-command of the "First International Brigade" grouping soldiers from a dozen nationalities tested his sub-machinegun by a dimly lit table and said another group of Britons left last week. "They couldn't see the point of staying during the ceasefire." He said morale is good among five Englishmen in the International Brigade.

Firm estimates of the number of foreigners left are hard to come by. Allan Hetherington-Cleberley, a genial Australian who said he had been appointed "commander international" Zagreb, claimed English-speaking soldiers alone still number as many as 500.

Brigadier Karlo Gorinsek, commander of the Croatian first operational zone, covering 200 miles of front including Osijek and Vinkovci, said: "In our operational zone there are few foreigners — 20 or 30 let us say." Tonka Jelic, an Australian who is the new public relations officer for the International Brigade, said it numbers 70 recruits.

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Russia gives freedom to last political prisoners

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

IN A symbolic end to one of the grimmest chapters in 20th-century history, ten people regarded by the authorities as the last political prisoners in Russia will today walk free from the notorious Perm 35 forced labour camp.

Their release from a prison well known for its freezing isolation cells and starvation diet is intended to give substance to President Yeltsin's claim before the United Nations last week that "in free Russia there are no political prisoners". The freeing of the ten will also underpin Mr Yeltsin's contention that his country, which in its Soviet incarnation used to react with fury at Western criticism of its human rights record, now positively welcomed monitoring by foreign governments and lobby groups.

In its zeal to stamp out an institution that won the Soviet Union the opprobrium of the world, the Russian authorities may even have interpreted the concept of "prisoner of conscience" even more broadly than many Western countries. As of a year ago, the Soviet authorities were able to claim that they had released from Perm all prisoners convicted under the notorious article 70 of the penal code, which proscribes "agitation and propaganda against the state". But human rights groups countered that the prison still contained about a dozen inmates who were convicted of crimes such as "selling military secrets or even manslaughter" — carried out in the course of politically inspired acts, such as illegal crossing of the border.

No less an authority than Oleg Kalugin, the former KGB's counter-intelligence chief, contended this week that "Russia is perhaps the freest country in the world", given that "there are no controls on the media, no restrictions on human rights and no

political prisoners". In a debate in the Russian parliament this week, much was made of the fact that the republic's new security ministry — the successor to the KGB — will have no department whose specific purpose is to monitor and harass ideological and religious dissent.

But many a Russian liberal fears that the republic's current zeal to meet the highest international standards on human rights represents only an isolated moment in the country's history as it swings from the communist form of totalitarianism to a neo-fascist variety. Already the human rights record of several of Russia's partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Mr Yeltsin said that Russia was ready to make big reductions in its strategic nuclear arsenal. Of France's refusal to cut back on its own nuclear forces, he said: "We respect that position... we hope that once the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons is underway in Russia, France will in turn refrain from augmenting such armaments."

Izvestia sent a team of reporters to visit the conspirators in the jail on the outskirts of Moscow and last night published photographs of them, as well as a shot of the former Soviet prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, looking hardly less portly than before. Vasili Starodubtsev, the hardline farmers' leader who was a member of the ill-fated eight-man junta, told Izvestia's correspondents: "I have no complaints apart from the fact that I am innocent."

As well as wading through dozens of volumes of evidence against them accumulated by the Russian public prosecutor, Mr Starodubtsev said that he fretted about the "total collapse and catastrophe" that was now facing the country's agriculture.

Siberian town shivers in dark

While the federation awaits energy cuts, in one Siberian city they have already happened, Peter Conradi writes from Khabarovsk

When Lyudmila Golovina came home with her new baby from maternity hospital this winter, she found there was no central heating, hot water or gas in her block of flats.

Like tens of others who lived in the building, she responded by plugging in a portable heater; it blew the fuses, plunging the whole building into darkness as well. It then took several days before all the connections were finally restored.

"It has been the same story all over the city," said her father, Valeri, a journalist on a local newspaper. "They simply did not prepare for the cold." It has been a hard winter for Khabarovsk, an industrial city near the Chinese border, where the temperature regularly plunges to -25°C and a bitter wind blows almost continuously across the frozen Amur river. While the rest of Russia waits for the oil to run out, Khabarovsk's 600,000 people can be forgiven for thinking that they have been through it all already.

Since November, one by one, whole sections of the city have been blacked out and deprived of energy. Several thousand people had to see in the new year by candlelight.

For the time being at least, the situation appears to have stabilised. Some 200 million roubles (£20 million at official tourist rates) of special aid were promised and, in typical Russian fashion, the appearance of the bosses from the faraway capital generated the superhuman effort that was necessary to work miracles.

The weather, too, has warmed slightly, edging a few degrees up towards freezing point. Even so, it will be well into April before the snow eventually melts across Russia's far east, and another icy burst could prove

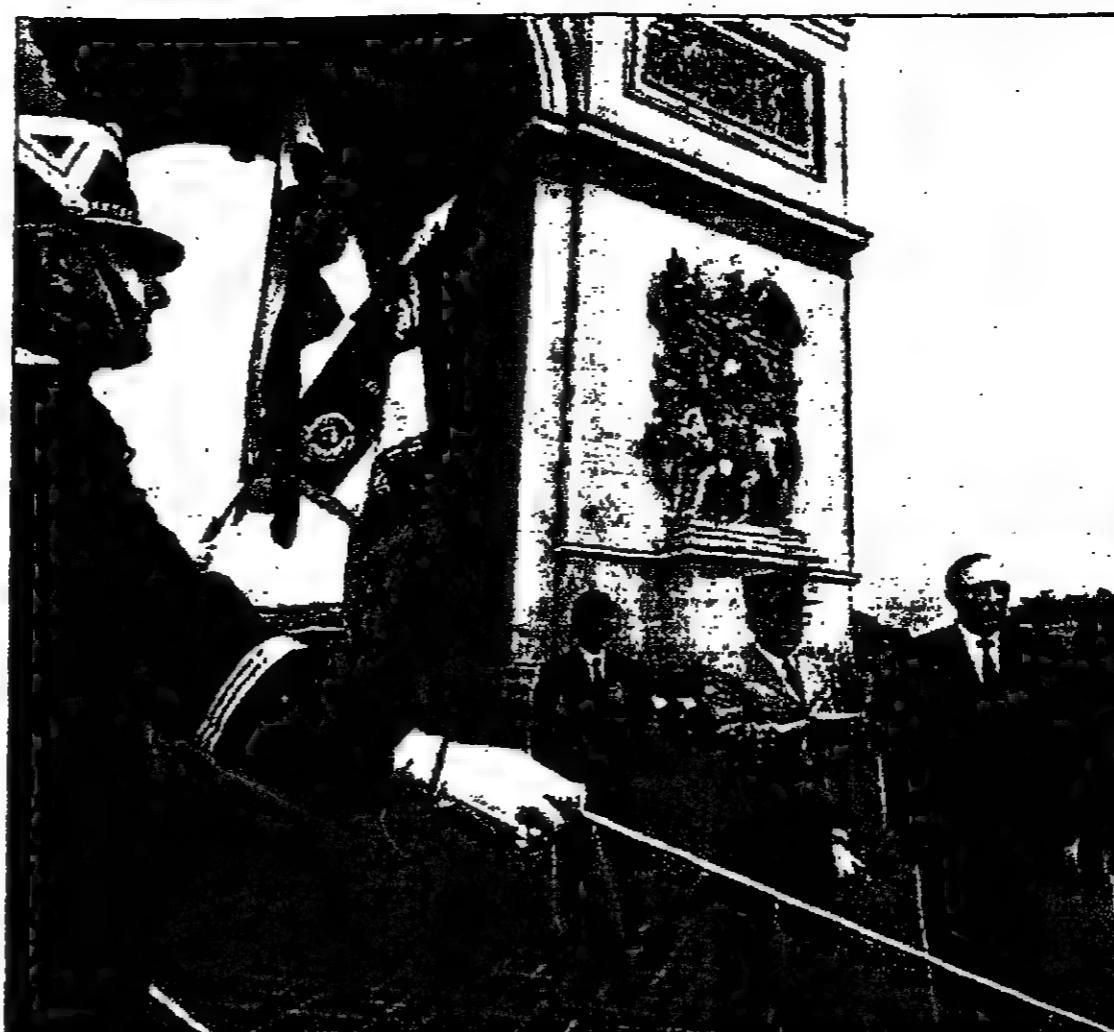
Yeltsin fears fascist upsurge

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON
IN PARIS

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday gave his most vivid warning yet of the dangers facing Russia's fledgeling democracy if the West does not fully back his reform programme.

He told a reception in the town hall to mark his state visit to France that without such support "a dictatorship will emerge". Everything his government had achieved would be threatened by opponents on the extreme right.

But many a Russian liberal fears that the republic's current zeal to meet the highest international standards on human rights represents only an isolated moment in the country's history as it swings from the communist form of totalitarianism to a neo-fascist variety. Already the human rights record of several of Russia's partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States, Mr Yeltsin said that Russia was ready to make big reductions in its strategic nuclear arsenal. Of France's refusal to cut back on its own nuclear forces, he said: "We respect that position... we hope that once the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons is underway in Russia, France will in turn refrain from augmenting such armaments."



Triumphal exit: Mr Yeltsin is ushered past a Republican Guard after a ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe

The Russian leader's discussions with President Mitterrand on Wednesday were apparently also dominated by the issue of nuclear disarmament. An Elysée Palace adviser said afterwards that there had been a "convergence of views on the notion of defence sufficiency, of minimal deterrents". This seemed to suggest that Mr Yeltsin pru-

dently did not repeat the view expressed before leaving Moscow that France must reduce its nuclear capacity in response to disarmament by the superpowers.

Mr Yeltsin responded to the warmth of his welcome in France and to the encouraging news that Russia will get the lion's share of some £415 million in French credits pre-

viously allocated to the Soviet Union, by predicting "an entirely new relationship between our two states for many years to come".

For their part, French officials were still doing their best to bury unhappy memories of the Elysée's snub of Mr Yeltsin on a previous visit to Paris during the Gorbachev era. M Mitterrand's aides

Kiev lets Crimea have voice

Kiev: Ukraine yesterday granted residents of Crimea the right to take part in decisions about the future of their autonomous peninsula, including division of property.

A high-level delegation from Kiev signed a joint statement on division of powers with Crimean authorities. It also provided for the creation of a free economic zone in the region. (Reuters)

Port falls

Moscow: Georgia's military council said its troops have captured the port of Sukhumi, the last stronghold loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the ousted president, virtually ending weeks of bloody resistance. It was occupied without a shot. (Reuters)

US pledges aid

Riga: Vice-President Quayle, visiting Estonia and Latvia, pledged extra American aid of \$18 million (£10 million) for the three Baltic states and endorsed swift withdrawal of Russian troops from their territories. He will be in Lithuania today. (Reuters)

Poverty bites

Moscow: Russia's rush towards a market economy has pushed 95 per cent of Moscow's residents below the poverty line. Yuri Luzhkov, the city's deputy mayor, said in the latest in a series of gloomy reports on shortages and high prices. (AP)

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OVER 60s

'Stupid Tyson was butt of joke'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN INDIANAPOLIS

DESREE Washington, the woman who accused Mike Tyson of rape, joked about the boxer's money and stupidity after he asked her out for the evening, a rival beauty contestant told the court yesterday.

In defence testimony aimed at countering the salacious portrait of Ms Washington painted by the prosecution, Marilyn Whittington said she had bumped into the accuser in the bathroom just after Tyson had visited the contestants in the Miss Black America beauty pageant in Indianapolis last July. "She told me she had met Tyson and was going to go out with him. I said, 'Are you really going?' She said, 'Of course I'm going. He's Mike Tyson and he's got a lot of money and he's dumb. You saw what Robin Givens got out of him.'

Robin Givens was the actress to whom Tyson was briefly married while he was world heavyweight champion. She won more than \$10 million from him after suing for divorce on the ground of physical cruelty.

Last week, Ms Washington, a university student and Sunday school teacher, that she had made any such statement.

Attempt to outflank Democrats Health care for all pledged by Bush

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday moved to negate one of the Democrats' strongest suits in the forthcoming presidential election by unveiling a plan that he pledged would give all Americans access to "the world's best health care".

He offered a system of vouchers and tax credits to give health insurance to the 35 million Americans who presently cannot afford it, and to alleviate the exploding costs of insurance for middle-income families.

The plan, vehemently de-



Gephardt called the plan "totally deficient".

nounced by the Democrats, would cost \$100 billion (£5.2 billion), as it was implemented over the next five years, and \$35 billion a year thereafter, with America's budget deficit already at record levels Mr Bush ducked the question of how it would be paid for.

At the last moment he had deleted proposals to raise funds by taxing the employer-paid benefits of highly paid workers and deeply cutting the Medicare programme for the elderly. These steps were considered politically too dangerous in an election year.

Mr Bush instead offered Congress 38 pages of financing options, leaving them to make the tough decisions. In doing so, he virtually ensured that there will be no legis-

lative action enacted in the foreseeable future, but this was an exercise in political posturing to begin with.

Polis show health care and its exorbitant costs to be one of the most potent electoral issues this year. It is one on which the Democrats have so far made all the running, proposing that employers would be taxed to finance a national insurance scheme if they did not buy private health insurance for their workers. One poll said that Americans trust the Democrats rather than Mr Bush on health care.

The plan envisages that American families with annual incomes of up to \$30,000 can receive up to \$3,750 a year, through tax credits, tax deductions or vouchers to pay for health care. Mr Bush also called for new limits on medical malpractice lawsuit settlements.

America spent \$27.1 billion on health care in 1990, a figure that has now soared to \$738 billion, more than any other industrial country.

lest he appeared indifferent, but one clearly based on a market-driven philosophy. Setting the tone for the coming campaign, he said in Cleveland, Ohio: "My plan will preserve what works, and reform what doesn't." The Democrats' proposals were "a prescription for disaster ... a back-door route to nationalised health care" that would create a hugely expensive new bureaucracy no one wanted.

"When you get right down to it, there are two fundamental health care choices," said Mr Bush, who was flying on to the West Coast to promote his plan. "We can adopt a system that's been a proven failure all over the world — nationalised health care. Or we can reform our present system, which has its faults, certainly, but which can also provide the highest-quality care on Earth."

Richard Gephardt, the House majority leader, called it "totally deficient" and a "non-plan" that "will put more money into the pockets of insurance companies and doctors, but will do nothing to make health coverage affordable or ensure Americans have access to quality care".

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Death charges: Dr Jack Kevorkian, who advocated doctor-assisted suicide for the seriously ill, listening to his indictment in Oakland County circuit court, Pontiac, Michigan. Dr Kevorkian was arrested this week in connection with the deaths of two seriously ill women who used the "suicide machine" invented by him. A grand jury indicted him on Monday on two counts of murder and one count of delivery of a controlled substance, the Oakland prosecutor said. Dr Kevorkian's lawyer said the ending of the suffering of two chronically ill women was an act of humanity.

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Eichmann file 'not in archive'

FROM ED McCULLOUGH IN BUENOS AIRES

A NAZI hunter who studied seven Argentine government files dating back decades said that he was most struck by what was not there.

"Where is the Eichmann file?" Shimon Samuels of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies, said on Wednesday. "The file that should have been the thickest of all is not there."

On Monday, President Menem ordered the national archives to collect information on Nazis who fled here after the war. Government agencies were given 30 days to comply. The seven federal police files included two each on Josef Mengele, the "Angel

of Death" at Auschwitz, and on Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy. The others dealt with Nazis such as Walter Kueischmann and Eduard Roschmann, now dead; and Josef Schwammberger, aged 79, extradited to Germany in 1990 and on trial in Stuttgart for his alleged role in the death of Jews in forced labour camps.

But on the man who drew up plans to exterminate the Jews of Europe, and who was kidnapped here in 1960 by Israeli agents, tried, convicted, hanged and cremated — nothing. "I cannot accept that it is an oversight," Mr Samuels said. (AP)

Iran plans to make a documentary film on the political life of its revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini, who died in 1989, said Muhammad Ali Ansari, who added that Khomeini's shrine, south of Tehran, would be expanded into a "touristic and science-oriented" complex.

A Lebanese daily newspaper, *ad-Diyar*, said police had stopped it publishing an interview with rebel Christian general Michel Aoun, who is now living in exile in France. Police listened to a taped recording of the interview then barred publication.

A parchment scroll offering the freedom of Nottingham Castle and Sherwood Forest to Kevin Costner of *Hollywood's Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves*, was signed by the Sheriff of Nottingham and the county council chairman.



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Peaceful battle begins

The presidents of Russia and South Africa, Boris Yeltsin, and F.W. de Klerk, and anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela are among nominees for the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, it was reported in Oslo. "So far we've received 105 nominations for 83 individuals and 22 organisations," Geir Lundestad, head of the Nobel Institute, said. The winner will be announced in October.

Jean-Pierre Rampal, whose lyrical flute-playing has captivated the world, said before a 70th birthday celebration at the Lincoln Centre, New York: "I cannot understand why America is so violent." Of the ubiquitous personal stereo, he added: "We are arriving to (sic) a generation of deaf people. It's a catastrophe."

A horse-drawn funeral carriage followed by hundreds of fans and dozens of musicians carried the body of Willie Dixon through the South Side streets of Chicago to the sounds of music he made famous. Dixon died in California last week at the age of 76. Bands stood on corners along a route down Muddy Waters Drive and past the Checker Board Lounge where Dixon was a fixture for years.

Former French prime minister Michel Rocard has been honoured by Australia for his work to protect the Antarctic. Rocard was appointed an honorary Companion of the Order of Australia, the nation's highest honour, which he received for the central role he played in delivering French government support to Australia's attempt to ban mining in the Antarctic.

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Nintendo peril hits Hollywood

Charles Bremner on American fears of growing Japanese cultural power

A cartoon elicited a few bitter chuckles over American breakfast tables the other day, after Tokyo politicians delivered their latest show of insults to Yankee pride. It featured a newsreader reporting that the Japanese had taken over motherhood, baseball and apple-pie, the three sacred symbols of America. Over the past week, as the prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, has aired his own thoughts on American sloth, life has caught up with the cartoon and added a sadistic twist. A consortium led by the Nintendo company wants to take over the Mariners, the beloved baseball team of Seattle, and the town is begging the baseball authority to let them do so, because if the \$100 million deal fails they will go Florida. Even Tom Foley, the congressional speaker and Washington state native, has joined the drive to persuade Fay Vincent, the national baseball commissioner, to rescind the rule which bars any foreigners but Canadians from owning teams.

Beyond the northern Pacific rim, an area which long ago learned to trade and live with the Japanese, the notion of Nintendo saving the Mariners has been greeted with resignation and mourning. Is nothing sacred, ask talk-show hosts and commentators? "First they took our cars, now it's baseball," said a barman in Indianapolis, a good vantage point for gauging the anguish middle America is feeling over the triumph of the new evil empire, a force which has taken on the demonic image the Russells used to enjoy.

A month after President Bush's tragic comic trade trip to Tokyo, it seems to many Americans that the baseball episode is fresh evidence that the dreaded Japanese march on American culture has begun. Weren't we all naive, goes the argument, to think that we could sell Hollywood, record companies and all those hotels, golf-courses and landmarks to the Japanese and then believe all their promises, like those made by Sony to Columbia Pictures, that they would "stay out of the creative process".

There has been no shortage of ammunition in recent days for those who see the imminent replacement of Big Mac by Big Tekamaki. On Monday, Michael Jackson was coaxed back onto planet earth to announce that he would undertake a world tour. Since everyone knows Mr Jackson is terrified of performing outside a studio these days, the pop press assumed that Sony, with whom Mr Jackson has a billion dollar multi-media contract, was worried about his sagging fortunes and had twisted his gloved arm. It escaped no one's attention that the venue for his appearance is the art-deco splendour of the Radio City Music Hall, the jewel of that New York institution, the Rockefeller Centre, now owned by Mitsubishi.

Japanophobes had their worst fears confirmed on Wednesday with a headline in *The New York*



Milos Forman: his sumo film has been dropped

Times: "Hollywood Drops Film, Bowing to the Sumos". The sumo wrestlers had extinguished a Sory-Columbus film called *Hell Camp*, which was to have been directed by Milos Forman, the director of *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus*. Sony and all the Americans in the \$25 million project are denying that it was cancelled because it painted an unfattering portrait of Japan's most popular sport. Maybe so, mused the Times, but why did a group of Hollywood's most seasoned moguls bow to the objections of a foreign sports federation? The Sumo episode reminded many of last year's affair over *Mr Baseball*, a film about the comic adventures of an American player in Japan, which was purged of anti-Japanese jokes after Matsushita took over Universal Studios.

A dark Japanese hand has been discerned behind revisions of a likely blockbuster novel published this week *Rising Sun* by Michael Crichton. This time Mr Crichton is not proposing planetary annihilation from outer space, as he did in *The Andromeda Strain*, nor under the hooves of stampeding dinosaurs as he did in *Jurassic Park*. His alien menace of 1992 bows and smiles a lot and wears a dark suit. Late last year, Knopf took the rare step of recalling advance copies from reviewers and replacing them with a "corrected" version, which softened some of Mr Crichton's harsher observations about Japan. There was absolutely no connection, insisted the author, with the fact that Matsushita-Universal had just agreed to finance a Steven Spielberg film of *Jurassic Park*.

Set in Los Angeles, the novel opens with the murder of a blonde who has been having sex with a sleazy Japanese tycoon on a conference table during the opening of the new headquarters of the Nakamoto Corporation. Ostensibly a whodunit, the book is really a seminar on the Japanese psyche and its influence in America. Half of Los Angeles, from the police to the universities and press, has been bought by Nakamoto. As the hero detective puts it: "Whoever pays for an institution controls it. If the Japanese are willing to put up the money — and if the American government and American industry aren't — then the Japanese will control."

Some of the reviewers are accusing Mr Crichton of basic Japan-bashing, a sport which has stood in for baseball during this winter season, but the author and some fairly uncharismatic politicians are treating the book as an intelligent "wake-up call" which supports the argument of those who believe that America, as an open, culturally diverse country, must learn to live with Japanese power. Can do this, they say, not by fleeing into protectionism and paranoia, but by strengthening native institutions and, if necessary, by borrowing some un-American models — such as a national industrial policy.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

On behalf of the five million Britons who are like me, I wish to apologise to the 55 million who are not. For they are on their own, this week. They will get no help from us. Whatever the depths of their distress or need, our eyes are blind and our ears deaf. Frankly, my dears, we do not give a damn. We are too busy confronting our own fears, facing situations head-on, and generally looking out for good old number one. Or, rather, good old numbers one to five to millions. And we have been strongly advised not to support others, for the very good reason that both the Sun and Mercury are adversely affected by Pluto.

Which brings me to an adverse aspect of astrology itself which I had not hitherto considered, probably because I had never considered astrology at all until this morning: when, thumbing through the chaos of the *Radio Times* in search of something else, I inadvertently fetched up against the face of Patric Walker, toppling his horoscope column with the knowing smirk of one for whom fate holds no surprises. So I glanced at the Cancer entry, hoping for some such encouragement as "keep trying, you will find the programme information you are seeking any day now, this week's layout was done by a tall dark stranger who has now gone on a long sea voyage" but instead received only the advice adumbrated above. And I would have left it that, had it not

The Ashdown affair: two views on the conflict of public interest and privacy

News from the gutter

Everyone should have a right to be left alone, argues

David Pannick

When the actor Gordon Kaye lay in a hospital bed recovering from severe head injuries, a journalist and a photographer from the *Sunday Sport* gained access to his room, took pictures and conducted an "interview". He sought an injunction to stop them publishing, but found the only limited remedy that the court could provide was to order that there be no publication unless the newspaper made it clear the information was obtained without Mr Kaye's consent. The Court of Appeal later confirmed that "in English law there is no right to privacy".

The case of Paddy Ashdown, and the conduct of the press, again focus attention on the limited extent to which English law protects the fundamental right to be left alone. In his statement on Wednesday, Mr Ashdown explained that he "was advised and believed that I had every right to defend my privacy".

The law does recognise the right to privacy in some contexts. The Broadcasting Complaints Commission has powers to adjudicate upon complaints of "unwarranted

intrusion of privacy" in broadcast programmes. The right of rape victims to anonymity under the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976, and the law of trespass also protects some aspects of privacy.

The law of confidence applies when information is secret, was imparted in circumstances of confidence, and had been used in an unauthorised way. These criteria were plainly satisfied in respect of the information stolen from the offices of Mr Ashdown's solicitor, which is why Mr Ashdown was granted an injunction to restrain publication by the *New of the World*.

But there are severe limits to the utility of an action for breach of confidence: there are many occasions when a newspaper has information which damages personal privacy but which has not been impaired in circumstances creating a duty of confidence.

There is a very strong case for enacting a general right to privacy to bring some principle into this confused and arbitrary area of the law.

Article Eight of the European

Convention on Human Rights, to which the United Kingdom is party, asserts that (subject to exceptions) "everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence". Of course, it may not be easy to define the scope of a right to be left alone. What the public is interested in is not necessarily identical to what is in the public interest.

The laws of other countries do define a tort of invasion of privacy, however. For the law of this country to deny a remedy for such a wrong whatever the circumstances is to confound any sense of decency and to deprive individuals of protection of a right fundamental to their integrity. The press has shown few signs of taking the last chance to display self-control granted to it in 1990 by the Calcot Committee.

What justifiably concerns opponents of a law of privacy is that

it would add to the power of the judiciary (not all of whom are known for their commitment to freedom of expression) to determine what we learn about public figures.

A solution would be for the law to recognise a right to privacy, with a remedy in damages for any breach. The judiciary would have no power to prevent the imparting of information to the public, but those newspapers which breached the right to privacy would have to compensate the victim, with exemplary damages being awarded to penalise the newspaper when there has been a flagrant abuse. Privacy law would echo libel law. Such a solution would accord with the practical reality demonstrated by Mr Ashdown's case: injunctions are of little value in seeking to stop the flow of information. But a legal duty to respect privacy would also impose on the press an obligation to consider with more care the consequences that publication may have for its victims.

David Pannick is a practising barrister and a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Ashdown's loneliest day

The Liberal Democrat leader spoke about his future to Peter Riddell

A WEEK IN POLITICS

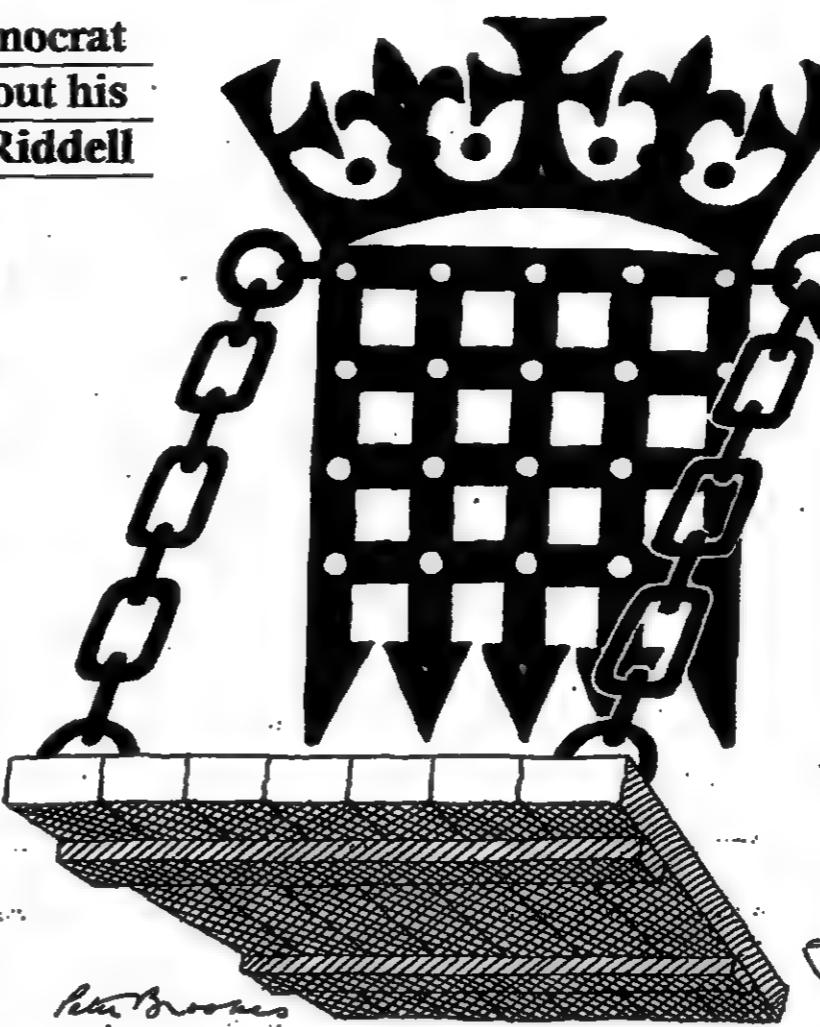
Paddy Ashdown has been bruised by the past week's events, however much he pretends that it is business as usual. Talking to me yesterday in his Westminster office, he was understandably, slightly nervous and preoccupied with the details of the affair. He smoked a cigarette, which he never does in public.

Nevertheless, he was more resilient than I can imagine many politicians being in the same circumstances. Possibly as a legacy of his days in the services, he has remarkable self-control. Never an enthusiastic insider in the Westminster club, he can talk about politics in a detached, almost clinical way, with at times a chilling self-analysis. His language, his metaphor, are often more like those of a businessman than a career politician.

Mr Ashdown recognises that there may be immediate political repercussions from his admission of his brief relationship with a former secretary more than five years ago. So far he has received strong support from parliamentary colleagues and from Liberal Democrats in the country. That is a reflection both of his success over the past three years and of political necessity: there is no alternative to closing ranks. When we talked, he had just returned from a consultation with party staff in Cowley Street and hearing reports from the regions.

There may be second thoughts in the next few days, and yesterday Mr Ashdown seemed braced for a short-term drop both in his own high personal popularity and his party's rating. His hope is clearly that most members of the public, as well as the political world, will treat his admission as his ordinary, and common, human failing.

If there is no sign of self-pity or bitterness in Mr Ashdown's comments, there is anger, over the invasion of privacy in the use of a



stolen document. This was the theme to which he kept returning. The issue here has become blurred by the issuing, and later lifting, of an injunction against all Fleet Street newspapers a week ago. Mr Ashdown recognises that this offered only a slim hope of keeping the master secret, but it did give him time to alert his MPs and visit his Yeovil constituency on Monday. Thus he could prepare the disclosure on his own terms.

However, the Ashdown camp still believes that the injunction was fully justified, since what was being offered to the *New of the World* was a confidential statement stolen from his solicitor's safe. If the law cannot in practice prevent such documents becoming public — forced out by devices

such as "we are being gagged stories" — then there is nothing to stop the publication of other information obtained illegally, for instance through wire taps or tapes.

As an affected party who has, incidentally, opposed a privacy law, Mr Ashdown does not believe he can discuss his views in public, although close advisers such as Sir David Steel and Lord Holme of Cheltenham have sought to turn attention onto this issue. There is a lot of public and political sympathy for this line.

These specific and legitimate complaints have fuelled the existing feverish debate about the bias of the press, dirty tricks and smears which had already been developing after the singularly mundane revelations about Neil

Kinnock's talks with Soviet diplomats. All sides tend to exaggerate the political influence of the media, and although television is by far the most common source of news, the press still matters, since roughly three-quarters of the public also reads a daily paper.

Obviously the British press disproportionately supports the Tories. More than 70 per cent of papers sold are pro-Tory, compared with 50 per cent in 1950. But of course this masks big variations in the degree to which individual papers are partisan.

Nevertheless, Labour has a fair grievance against some of the highly tendentious tabloid coverage of the past six weeks, matched in style, if not scale, by attacks on the Tories in the *Daily Mirror*.

that the relationship had been consummated". Watts says he was distressed by his own findings. "There is strong evidence that there was a child. I can't defend Dickens' treatment of his wife, but I still love and honour him."

Lords and ladies

RACHAEL HEYHOE FLINT, the former captain of England's women cricket team who was rebuffed in her attempt to join the MCC last year, believes she has defeated a chink in the club's solidly male armour. She has just written to Michael Melhuish, the MCC's president, to congratulate him on a three-page feature about women's cricket in the club's current yearbook, the first time it has carried an article on women.

"Do I detect a softening of attitudes towards women who have a great interest in cricket?" she asks. As the article records the first ever women's cricket match in 1745 — 42 years before the MCC was established — she may have a strong case. MCC secretary, Colonel John Stephenson, also held out some encouragement yesterday. "This does not herald the arrival of ladies, but the question should be raised again. The MCC really isn't an old fuddy-duddy club."

The tabloids are leaving no stone unturned in their pursuit of the Paddy Ashdown story. A team of journalists even set up camp yesterday outside the Tenerife hotel of Alison Northcliffe, Ashdown's secretary between 1986 and 1990. Northcliffe had to telephone her local Lib Dem party in Torquay to find out why she had suddenly become the centre of such attention. What the reporters did not realise until they arrived, however, was that she was on her honeymoon.

Albert Reynolds may have lost from *front row* when it comes to singing country & western songs in public, but ask him his age and he turns all coy. His daughter Leonie — as well as his parliamentary secretary, self-sacrifice and non-violence. His sanctity is outstanding. He would be a spiritual inspiration." Fr Johannes Gerhartz, who is secretary of the Jesuit Order of Rome, also backs the idea. "We have patron saints for every kind of group, so why not for those people with AIDS?" But Fr Gualberto Giachi, who has written the Vatican biography of the saint, disagrees. "This would end up overshadowing some of the historical values in the life of this saint — the more universal values," he says.

The issue will be decided by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments in Rome, which, under the pope's direction, is responsible for naming patron saints. "If enough people with AIDS ask for St Aloysius as a patron saint, it may happen," says a Vatican spokesman.

America, and describes them as "a very factual fiction". He is supported by Claire Tomalin, whose biography of Ternan concludes she was his "lover and mistress". Peter Ackroyd, however, concludes in his monumental biography that she was "inconceivable

Return to sender

LORD SHAWCROSS was last night presented with a unique gift to mark his 90th birthday: a leather-bound volume of scores of his letters published in *The Times*. The gift was presented to Shawcross, one of our most prolific correspondents, at a 200-strong banquet, attended by among others, Lord Callaghan and Sir Geoffrey Howe. The meal was held in the premises of his employers — for whom he still puts in an eight-hour day — J.P. Morgan. The letters reflect the applica-



America, and describes them as "a very factual fiction". He is supported by Claire Tomalin, whose biography of Ternan concludes she was his "lover and mistress". Peter Ackroyd, however, concludes in his monumental biography that she was "inconceivable

Dickens and son?

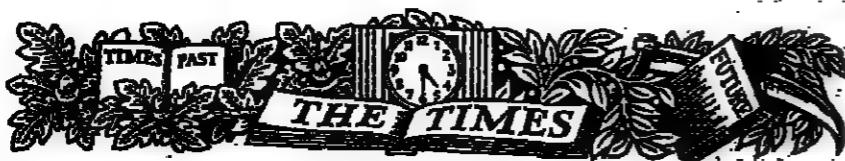
AFTER Paddy Ashdown, Charles Dickens' annual dinner at Simpsons in the Strand — tonight will hear readings from *The Confessions of Charles Dickens*, in which the author owns up to an affair with the actress Ellen Terry.

Alan Wans, the fellowship's respected president and Dickens scholar, has ghost-written the memoirs, recently published in

Great Expectations...



America, and describes them as "a very factual fiction". He is supported by Claire Tomalin, whose biography of Ternan concludes she was his "lover and mistress". Peter Ackroyd, however, concludes in his monumental biography that she was "inconceivable



THE RIGHT TO RENT

Not until last December did the government start to panic about the property market. House prices had been falling, in the South-East at least, since 1988. Only when former Conservative voters began to tell heartbreaking stories about losing job, house, car and all they stood up in, did ministers realise that the severely depressed housing market was becoming an electoral issue. Mortgage lenders' heads were banged together to produce a repossession rescue plan and an eight-month stamp duty holiday was announced.

A Times survey today indicates that the rescue scheme may help as few as 5,000 out of a total of 80,000 facing repossession. And while the stamp duty holiday may lead to a cluster of sales before its expiry date in August, few experts believe that the 1 per cent saving will be enough to tempt a mass of buyers into the stagnant market. A larger fall in house prices has not managed to do so.

Does it really matter if house prices continue to fall? Politically, the property market crash could damage the Conservatives. The loss of the "feel-good factor" created by high house prices is continuing to hold back recovery in the economy. The impact has been most painful in Tory areas, hurting those lower middle-class voters who were important to Margaret Thatcher's electoral success. Attracted by her dream of a property-owning democracy, they bought houses (often from their council) whose value has now fallen, the interest payments on which many can no longer afford. Because the market is so sluggish, they find themselves unable to sell. And some of those who bought at the top of the boom now find their house is worth less than their mortgage.

For the economy, in the longer term, lower house prices are excellent. Britain's housing market, crucial to "labour market flexibility", has long been blighted by the inflexibility of home ownership. It is as illiquid as molasses. At the height of the boom in the 1980s, skilled workers could not move down south to fill shortages because they could not afford to live there. Now, they would be lucky to be able to sell at all.

Young people get sucked into home

ownership far earlier than they should. In Germany, the average age for taking out a first mortgage is 35. Until then, Germans live in rented apartments and can move from city to city as the market takes them. Young Britons, by contrast, take out their first mortgage in their mid-twenties. They are saddled with debt and stuck in one place.

At their peak, in 1990, interest payments on the typical new mortgage took up 32 per cent of average earnings. In the 1980s, Britons were relatively happy to be encumbered with large mortgages as soon as they were old enough to afford them. They feared that, if they failed to climb onto the housing ladder, they would have to make do with a lower rung later. Panic buying set in. The more people bought, the higher prices rose, and the more imperative it became for anybody who could afford it to buy a house. Those who did were rewarded by a giddy increase in their (notional) wealth.

That unseemly rush into the property market prepared the ground for today's recession. Interest rates rose and duly punished industry and employment. It should be a government imperative to stop that boom/bust cycle.

House prices have still fallen less in real terms than they did in the mid-1970s (although then high inflation masked the effect). Those who have been caught by the collapse this time may hesitate before entering the market again. But while home ownership remains so heavily subsidised, Britons will continue to scrape together all their savings and lock them into their homes.

Politicians assume that there are still as many votes in increasing home ownership as there were in the 1980s. Yet the new homeowners who have discovered, painfully, that property investment is not a one-way bet, might now vote for a policy that puts money into reviving the rented sector instead. The one-third of the population that already rents would welcome such a shift in subsidy more. No longer should mortgage interest tax relief be seen by government and Opposition as the political sacred cow that can never be killed for its meat.

CASE FOR THE PROSECUTION

The least good reason to welcome yesterday's appointment of Barbara Mills as Director of Public Prosecutions is that she is a woman. Her sex will doubtless please ministers hypersensitive to charges of male chauvinism. Career-minded women will be delighted at this confirmation that they are not disqualifed from high office. But the choice owes nothing to such considerations. Mrs Mills is simply the best person for the job.

The Crown Prosecution Service thought that it already had the best on the sad day last October when Sir Alan Green, Mrs Mills's predecessor, was driven to resign. The best had not yet proved enough. The service was created in 1986 and the years since have not been easy. It has been beset by the usual problems that attend institutional reform: administrative confusion, stretched resources, poor employee morale and an excessive workload for senior management. Worse, the service has been haunted by the problem that began it.

The CPS came into being because of dissatisfaction with the role of the police. Before 1986, the police were both the investigating and the prosecuting authority. That authority inevitably saw its job as to clear up crime and convict its perpetrators. The methods by which this was achieved mattered less. Too often, the prosecution presented evidence that it knew, or should have known, to be faulty. Juries were browbeaten to convict. The creation of the CPS was meant to remove this compulsion.

It has since emerged that the compulsion was sometimes worse than could have been imagined. The Guildford Four, the Birmingham Six and the murder of PC Keith Blakelock have all cast doubt on police

procedures. This has rubbed off on the prosecutors who pressed their cases. Sir Alan showed a commendable willingness to abandon doubtful convictions. But he paid a price. Police suspicion of the CPS is rife. Working relations, essential to the system's smooth running, have sometimes hovered on the point of breakdown.

Here lies particular reason to welcome Mrs Mills's appointment. In her 18 months at the Serious Fraud Office, she proved astute at working alongside the police on complex investigations. She is no soft touch. Indeed critics of her tenure at the SFO more often accuse her of an over-readiness to prosecute than the reverse. Yet as counsel for Winston Silcott, she has first-hand knowledge of the hazards.

Her first task is to restore the morale of the Crown Prosecution Service. She must press the case, first espoused by Sir Alan, for her staff to be granted rights of audience in the Crown courts, breaking the monopoly of the Bar. Secondly, she must open up CPS decision-making. There may be a reason why the Crown seeks to jail doctors who put terminally ill patients out of their agony, or distraught women who fight back against their violent husbands, or men who choose to get their sexual kicks by submitting to mutilation by others. If so, the public should be told.

The criminal justice system is being investigated by Lord Runciman's Royal Commission. The right verdict for it to return on the charges of inadequacy against the CPS would be the Scottish one: "not proven".

Mrs Mills's ambition should be to ensure that, by the time it reports, Lord Runciman returns a "not guilty" verdict instead.

FAULTY TOWERS

Demolition only 21 years after it was completed brings to an end an appropriately nasty, brutish and short life for one of London's least loved modern buildings, the departments of environment and transport in Marsham Street, Westminster. Michael Heseltine announced yesterday that he is to spend something like £200 million replacing the block. This is cheap at the price. Almost any replacement would be better than the slabs sticking three fat fingers 200 feet at the sky from the surrounding close-knit streets.

The paradox that has pacified the Treasury is that the replacement will be more cost-effective than this utilitarian "statement" of the Modern Movement in architecture. The environment department, supposedly guardian of Britain's finest architecture, was an exceptionally inefficient place to work in: eternally windswept, already falling to bits, dispiriting and badly interconnected, with the lifts that were its main arteries continually breaking down. Some 3,500 civil servants were herded into a repulsive grid of concrete boxes and identical corridors. A former environment secretary used to take visitors to the 19th storey to point out for them the best view of London — the only one which did not include the Marsham Street towers.

"Marsham Street" was erected in fits and starts throughout the Sixties, representing a variant on Modernism proudly labelled Brutalism by its progenitors. Other examples include the Hayward Gallery/Queen Elizabeth Hall complex on the South Bank and the Elephant and Castle in south London. If it is now open season to call in Bejeman's famous friendly bombs on such debased commercial and bureaucratic architecture, there are plenty more candidates for attack.

Most date from the disastrous policy of

"point block" development in the 1960s and 1970s. Birmingham's Bull Ring is coming down. So should Manchester's Piccadilly development. In London, most offence was caused by isolated steel, glass and concrete blocks round the parks of the West End: the Hilton and Royal Lancaster hotels, the Euston tower near Regent's Park and the Royal Free Hospital by Hampstead Heath.

New Zealand House lowers over St James's and Centre Point over Soho. Many of these buildings were built for the government, or subsidised with public-sector grants or "planning gain" deals. The passion for high-rise building, always inefficient in the use of space, was largely the result of delusions of grandeur by developers and civil servants.

Urban space can be more efficiently, more sensitively and more attractively exploited by intensive, low building. This lesson has been an expensive one. London is not the city for monumental redevelopment, like Paris and the centre of Washington. Its character is higgledy-piggledy, with medieval street plans, gardens and congeries of old villages. Its architecture needs to respect the surroundings and the needs of those who are going to use it.

Downstream, redevelopment is hoped to shift the centre of gravity of London. The great pyramid-topped tower of Canary Wharf can be seen from all quarters, and as far away as Stansted. It is too big, possibly too big for its own commercial good, but at least few will ever see it from close to. Its day for demolition may be far off, but from a river boat, up the old gateway to London, much of the new building in Docklands is exciting and respects its setting. The Age of Brutalism is dead. It meets its end symbolically in the fall of the faulty towers of Marsham Street.

Party lines on BBC funding

From Lord Briggs and others

Sir, With the approach of a general election, we regard it as vital for the leaders of the three main parties to make clear their attitudes to the funding of the BBC. The BBC's charter is up for renewal in 1996; it is therefore the Parliament that is about to be elected that will almost certainly decide this issue.

For most of its history, the BBC has been seen as a part of the social fabric of Britain. In fulfilling its brief to educate, inform and entertain, the BBC has performed a wide range of valuable services to the nation. It has encouraged talented writers, actors, musicians and all those involved in the craft of film-making. Its education programmes have helped to shape the toolkit of generations of young people. It has provided independent observation of the life of the nation and the world.

All around the world, the BBC is synonymous with high-quality programmes and first-class production values.

Today the BBC is in retreat. The preoccupation with cutbacks and the market economy has made a publicly funded body unfashionable. The consequent retrenchment is involving wholesale cuts in programme budgets and in the BBC's regional service. The range and diversity of the BBC's output is at serious risk.

Few large organisations are perfect, and some of the efficiencies being put into practice will give the viewer better value for money. But now is the time to stop the cuts and to start supporting a valuable national asset.

We believe that a future government which cares about education, diversity and the maintenance of our national culture will want to reinforce its support in the BBC.

We therefore urge the three party leaders to make a commitment to the future of the BBC, and to state in their election manifestos that they will continue to support the licence fee and allow it to rise at least in line with inflation.

Yours etc,
ASA BRIGGS,
BRENDAN FOSTER,
GEORGE HARRISON,
RICHARD HOOGART,
TERRY JONES,
CAMERON MACKINTOSH,
IRIS MURDOCH,
MICHAEL PALIN,
DAVID PLOWRIGHT,
ANTHONY SAMSON,
ROY STRONG.

The Campaign for Quality Television,
PO Box 321,
Manchester M60 3AA.
February 5.

On the right rails

From Mr J. D. A. Evans

Sir, Mr Wint of the British Rail Federation says (letter, January 31), that he understands that 90 per cent of the population never travel on a train. Our understanding based on independent market research is that just under half the population use the railways at some time.

It is not surprising that we find his assessment of the railway industry's needs and achievements to be similarly wide of the mark.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY EVANS
(Director of Public Affairs),
British Railways Board,
Euston House, 24 Evershot Street,
PO Box 100, NW1.
January 31.

Church 'superiority'

From the Bishop of Brentwood

Sir, I read with interest the article by Derek Jennings (January 31) concerning the "effortless superiority" of the Anglican Church towards other Christian churches. There is some truth in this.

However, as Roman Catholics we need to examine our own conscience. For centuries, and even on occasions since Vatican II, we have implied, if not expressed, an "ecclesiastical superiority" towards other churches which must often have made them feel like second-class citizens.

Sadly, some may be inclined to see the recent Vatican response to the first Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, wrongly or rightly, as a further sign of this.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS MACMAHON,
Bishop's House, Stock,
Ingatestone, Essex.
January 31.

The right to die

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, I see that Bernard Levin has been writing tush again about euthanasia ("Whose death is it anyway?", February 3); contemptible tush.

Derek Humphry's wife, Jean, having watched her mother take five years to die in agony from cancer, developed the disease herself at 40. It spread rapidly to her bones, liver, kidneys. Her pain was not wholly alleviated by analgesics and, not wanting to die as her mother had done, she begged her husband to obtain some powerful drug that she could take when she could bear her condition no longer. He did this with the help of a Harley Street friend, and on Easter Saturday, 1975, she took it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Unpaid bills and legal drawbacks

From the Under Secretary of State for Employment

Sir, I can well understand the frustration expressed by Mr Alastair Sampson (letter, February 5) about the delayed payment of bills and the damage that this causes to small firms.

Though the arguments for legislation imposing statutory interest on overdue bills may appear cogent and powerful, there is little evidence that a legislative approach would work in practice. Most organisations representing small firms recognise the practical difficulties in framing an effective law and share the government's view that its impact would be, at best, minimal and that it could actually damage the small firms sector.

Yours etc,
NICHOLAS GOULDING,
The Forum of Private Business,
Ruskin Chambers, Drury Lane,
Kings Cross, Cheshire.

February 5.

From Mr David Wade

Sir, The absence of an automatic right to interest on overdue debts is a legal anomaly. Such a right exists in all the other jurisdictions of the European Community (except for Ireland, Portugal and Greece) and also in the United States. The principle adopted elsewhere is that when debts are not paid on the agreed date or when the law implies, the customer is in breach of contract and should compensate the supplier for his loss by way of damages.

English law is different. In 1893 the House of Lords decided that due to past decisions there was no such automatic right at common law, that this was unjust, but legislation was needed to put the matter right. Since then the courts have repeatedly pointed to this injustice; among them the Law Commission and Lord Roskill and Lord Scarman.

However, nothing has been done. A voluntary code of conduct is now being canvassed by big business as an alternative to legislative reform. It would not give small businessmen the legal remedy needed to cure this injustice. Nor would it compensate them for their losses.

The scale of these losses can be judged from a recent survey putting the current level of overdue debt to small and medium-sized businesses in this country at £90 billion. The problem with voluntary codes is that they will be observed by those who already honour their commitments and ignored by those who regularly profit by failing to pay their trade debts on time.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WADE,

2 Mire Court Buildings,
Temple, EC4.

February 5.

Business letters, page 23

Sunday trading

From the Chairman of OPEN

Sir, Mr Sampson rightly draws attention to the need for a legislative solution to late payment of commercial debt which is driving many companies to the wall and acting as a drag on the whole economy.

The government, together with the CBI, is still wedged in voluntary codes as the solution, despite the fact that such codes have failed to make any impact in the past. Without legal sanction such codes will be observed by those who already honour their commitments and abused by those who do not.

Yours faithfully,
MORTON MIDDLEITCH,
Chairman,

OPEN (Outlets Providing for Everyday Needs),

57-69 Whitfield Street, W1.

January 30.

Yours faithfully,

LLOYD GROVES,
West London Law Society,
37 Harley Street, W1.

February 4.

Patient's charter

From Ms Jane Lee

Sir, If the patient's charter is to be an example of the government's pledge to improve standards of service, it is vital that users of the National Health Service are aware of the exact wording in each assurance. I would like to give just two examples:

1. The right to be "referred to a second opinion if you and your GP agree this is desirable". Fund-holding GPs work to a tight budget and, no matter how willing, may be unable to meet the cost of further consultation fees. Under such circumstances, perhaps the only "right" for the patient is to change GP.

2. The right to "have access to your health records". Yes, but only those which were written since last November and those which would not cause "undue concern to the patient". The added, again unmentioned, condition is that each health authority has the right to charge up to £10 for such access.

Rather than spend nearly £2 million on a somewhat meaningless patient's charter, the government should have invested this much-needed money in health services.

Yours sincerely,

JANE LEE (Co-ordinator),

Hospital Alert,

51 Grove Road,

Hounslow, Middlesex.

January 28.

Favoured occupations

From Mr W. J. Schaefer

Sir, I was interested to read that train drivers are no longer held in esteem by the public (report, February 5), as my own profession has met with a similar fate in recent

Abductor sends letter of apology

Continued from page 1

have an accomplice, but I am keeping an open mind."

The letter received in Birmingham was in an envelope with a typed label with the address: "West Midlands Police, Stephanie Slater Inquiry, Birmingham, West Midlands." Mr Cook said that copies to Mrs Dart in Leeds and to Yorkshire Television were being examined by forensic scientists. Others had been posted to *The Sun, News of the World* and BBC Television and he appealed to those organisations to pass them to the police unopened.

The letter sent to Mrs Dart was intercepted by a colleague. It was disclosed last night. Harvey Atkin, aged 60, Miss Dart's grandfather, said that the letter had been posted from Sheffield to Leeds Polytechnic, where Mrs Dart works as a secretary. It had been intercepted by a member of staff, who handed it to police.

Mr Cook said that, during the investigation of Miss Dart's murder, West Yorkshire police had received on to nine letters from her abductor. In one, he had expressed remorse over her death, but others had taunted the police and referred to playing a game with them.

Mr Cook said yesterday: "There is no boasting or taunting of the police in this letter. The tone is one of regret and contrition. I remain cautiously optimistic about our enquiries."

The postmark on the letters has intensified the "Yorkshire connection" in the Slater kidnapping. The mysterious "Bob Southwell" who kidnapped her had given a false address in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and had instructed the ransom to be left at a disused railway bridge near Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

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Westminster eyesore: within two years the wrecking crews will remove the environment department's hated block in Marsham Street

82% think Ashdown should stay in office

Continued from page 1

a statement depicting the behaviour of the tabloid press.

As more break-ins came to light, Des Wilson, the Liberal Democrat campaign director, said his belief in chance was "being tested to extremes."

Mr Wilson said that his natural scepticism about conspiracy theories had been shaken by the discovery that several local parties and the foemen of led to the attack.

His suspicions were further aroused by the fact that in many cases the thieves had targeted computer software containing electorally valuable details of membership

records. Local Lib Dem parties were being contacted and asked to provide details of incidents that seemed trivial at the time but looked different in the light of the latest events. A dossier would be sent to the Home Office or the police within 48 hours.

"There is now a need for a proper co-ordinated police inquiry into what is going on," Mr Wilson said. "There is a cause for concern that requires an inquiry. At what point do you go over the boundary from the cock-up theory to the conspiracy theory?"

His suspicions were further aroused by the fact that in many cases the thieves had targeted computer software containing electorally valuable details of membership

Ex-lover's plea, page 2
From the gather, page 14
Lowest day, page 14
Letters, page 15

Heseltine orders demolition of blot on ministerial landscape

By JOHN YOUNG

ONE of the most hated buildings in London, No 2 Marsham Street, Westminster, home of the environment department, for the past 20 years, is to be demolished.

Demolition is expected to start within 18 months to two years. By the time the wrecking crews move in, the 3,000 headquarters staff of the environment and transport departments should be rehoused, probably in Docklands. Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, told the Commons of his decision yesterday in a written answer.

"We have decided to knock it down," he said.

The building was much in

need of repair and, after detailed technical studies, he was satisfied that repairs on the necessary scale would not be desirable. Options for the future of the site, including its sale, were being considered.

In high good humour, Mr Heseltine gave a press conference on the terrace beneath the northemmost of the building's three glass and concrete towers. Half-jokingly, he said that the decision was the most dramatic thing he had done as environment secretary.

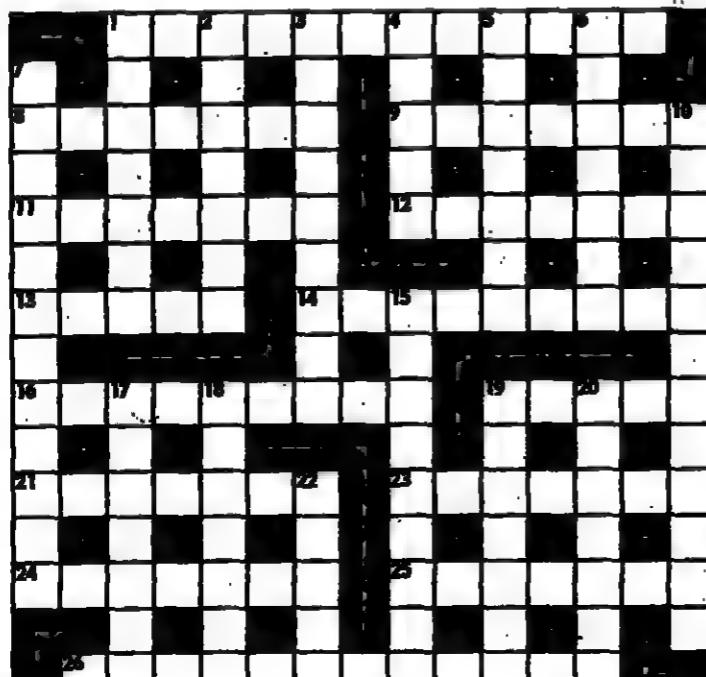
The building was first occupied in 1971 and had long been regarded as an eyesore. One of Mr Heseltine's prede-

cessors said the view from his 17th-floor office was the best in London because it was the only place from which Marsham Street could not be seen.

The concrete shell has been deteriorating, and protective scaffolding has been erected at the ends of each tower to prevent further damage. At the end of 1990, Arup Associates were commissioned in conjunction with the Property Services Agency to advise on various options for dealing with the problems. The report was delivered last year but will not be published.

Leading article, page 15

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,835



ACROSS

- If fed salad, it turns out very well (3,2,1,6).
- Persuade cleric to board vessel (7).
- Check the money received by an insignificant creature (7).
- Colourful lady rejects stuff in tin (7).
- A point ahead of defeat, this club (7).
- Old Harry was, at any rate, covered (5).
- I govern the endless work from day to day (9).
- Make lace — keep it first inside a hat (3,3,3).
- Fruit drink about tuppence (5).
- Intellectual G-man interrupting, forthwith (7).
- Everybody, say, starts to run off quickly (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,834.

PTOMAINE TORERO
EON TH MV
AMOUNT EDUCABLE
PSUR RAR
REDESIGN STARCH
MIT TAD G A
PARRY ALBATROSS
A ACT EY T
TEMPORARY EDIFY
R A J C R R
IONIAN ACADEMIC
O A N N N S
TACKLING ASSESS
ILL E PEO
CHESTS EMENDING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

MOJEDA
a. The strap of a flying harness
b. A type of sun
c. Deep purple
ENTOMIC
a. Within the law
b. Pertaining to insects
c. Levies eggs
BROMOL
a. Hornlike brown
b. Frowning
c. Foggy
MORLOGY
a. Foolishness
b. The study of customs
c. Extreme insensitivity

Answers in *Life & Times*, page 9

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National ... 736

National motorways ... 737

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East Anglia ... 741

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- SPORT 29-32

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Dash for gas yields seventh contract

GEC Alsthom wins £580m PowerGen deal

By ROSS THIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TODAY IN BUSINESS
BULL BY HORNS
Bull
 IBM's \$110 million investment in Bull, the French state-owned computer group, shatters European dreams of an indigenous electronics industry
 Page 23

IN REVERSE
 Price cutting and discount deals failed to prevent car sales in January slumping to the lowest level recorded since 1982
 Page 20

TAKING FLIGHT

John Olsen is spreading his wings, leaving Cathay Pacific to join Dan-Air as chief executive at a critical time for the British airline
 Page 21

TOMORROW

PROFILE
Robin Biggum, the chief executive of BIGC, is ambitious, but he puts his family first. Carl Leonard discovers

SAFETY NET
 The investor protection system is being radically overhauled but firms may continue to slip through the net

THE ECONOMY
 US dollar 1.8175 (+0.070). German mark 2.8702 (-0.0013). Exchange index 91.2 (-0.1).

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET
 FT 30 share 1961.2 (-9.7). FT-SE 100 2534.3 (-12.8). New York Dow Jones 3261.63 (+4.03). Tokyo Nikkei Avge 22104.92 (+168.55)

INTEREST RATES
 London Bank Base: 10.1%. 3-month Interbank: 10%+10%. 3-month eligible bills: 10.9%+2%. US: Prime Rate 6.9%. Federal Funds 4%. 3-month Treasury Bills 3.82-3.80%. 30-year bonds 10.9%+10.3%.

CURRENCIES
 London: £1.8155. New York: £1.8168. DM 2.8685. \$1.5795. Sfrf 1.4080. FF 5.7810. \$1.3825. Yen 125.2. £1.223. ECU 0.711534. SDR 0.777553. ECU 1.05216. £1.293035.

London foreign market close

GOLD
 London Fixing: All series pm \$355.35. close \$354.55-\$354.45 (\$195.50-196.00). New York: Comex \$355.05-\$355.55*

NORTH SEA OIL
 Brent (Feb) ... \$18.65 bbl (\$18.65)

RETAIL PRICES
 RPI: 135.7 December (1987-100). Denotes midday trading price

GEC Alsthom has won a £580 million contract to build a 1,360 megawatt gas-fired power station for PowerGen, Britain's second-largest fossil fuel generating company, to be sited at Connah's Quay, North Wales.

The gas power station under is the seventh secured in Britain by the Anglo-French manufacturer since the start of last year, when the newly privatised generating industry embarked on a "dash for gas" to replace older coal-fired power stations.

PowerGen's decision to proceed with Connah's Quay highlights the scale of power station building in Britain and the role of technology based upon aero-engines to harness gas as a fuel.

The orders secured by GEC Alsthom alone will provide generating capacity amounting to more than 5,000 megawatts, almost a tenth of the total capacity in England and Wales. Siemens, of Germany, and Asea Brown Boveri, the Swedish-Swiss

group, have also won orders to build gas-fired plants in the UK.

GEC Alsthom, a 50-50 joint venture between Lynd Weinstock's General Electric Company and Alcatel Alsthom, of France, is now the front-runner in the United Kingdom market for new power stations. Its UK orders for gas-fired plants total £1.6 billion. Kelvin Bray, the chairman of GEC Alsthom's subsidiary European Gas Turbines, said talks over further orders were continuing.

The wholesale renewal of a large chunk of baseload generating capacity comes at a time when Britain's two biggest privatised generating groups, National Power and PowerGen, are already under attack for steep price increases.

Critics say it would be cheaper to keep old coal plants running even though they are much less efficient at converting heat into electricity. The generators say replacing part of Britain's capacity with gas turbines will enable emissions to be reduced while

building only a minimum of immensely expensive desulphurisation equipment onto existing coal-fired plants.

Since its privatisation, PowerGen has announced the closure of four coal plants, with a combined capacity of nearly 1,000 megawatts. By 1995, when Connah's Quay comes on stream, the company will have added almost 3,000 megawatts of gas plant.

Connah's Quay will be built on the site of a coal power station which closed in 1982. PowerGen's first gas-fired plant, at Killingholme, south Humberside, will come on stream later this year. A second, at Rye House, Hertfordshire, is planned to begin generating in 1994. Both will use Siemens technology.

But rising gas prices have given an added advantage to GEC Alsthom. Since 1984, Alsthom has been working with General Electric of America to develop an engine, used to power Boeing 747 aircraft, for power generation. The resulting turbine, the 9F, has an energy conversion efficiency of 54 per cent, more than 2 per cent ahead of any rival, according to Mr Bray.

The turbines to be installed in Britain will be part-manufactured by GE in South Carolina and completed at GEC Alsthom's Belfast plant in eastern France. Steam turbines and generators will be manufactured at Rugby, Warwickshire, and Stafford. Overall, 55 per cent of the work will be carried out by BAe and the UK and up to 1,000 people will be employed building Connah's Quay.

Because of the growth in demand, GEC Alsthom is investing £100 million to enable the Belfast plant to build the whole turbine from 1995 onwards, and to increase capacity in response to growing demand for power generation gas turbines from continental Europe and the Pacific rim.

Comment, page 23

Price rise pledge, page 21

Receivers put in at Forwell Group

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S Bank has appointed receivers to Forwell Group, an office design and fitting business in Middlesex after the company's failure to repay debts of £1.4 million.

Timothy Harris and Christopher Hughes from Cork City, the insolvency specialist, were appointed on Tuesday evening, although the news was reported to the stock exchange only yesterday.

The bank admitted that it had been guilty of "unprofessional behaviour" in writing to some of Forwell's staff telling them that the company was bankrupt even though it was still trying to negotiate a rescue package.

One employee was told that her overdraft was frozen until she contacted the branch about her employment situation. A Lloyds spokeswoman said the bank had apologised to the company and the staff about the letters.

Forwell owns properties worth more than £1.5 million, which means that Lloyds' loans are likely to be repaid in full. The group's unsecured creditors, however, will receive little or nothing.

The bid was announced on Monday, but it is the events leading up to the news that have attracted the panel's concern, in particular a 26 per cent rise in the Wilkes share price to 189p while behind-the-scenes negotiations were going on.

Henry Cooke Lumsden, the Manchester broker, bought a parcel of Wilkes shares on behalf of Petrocon on January 10, when the price was 140p. Between January 8 and 16, Cooke's corporate finance side, in conjunction with Smith New Court Corporate Finance, secretly sounded out a total of 14 institutional shareholders, far

Advisers rebuked by panel

By MARTIN WALLER

THREE financial advisers have been rebuked by the City's takeover panel for their actions in the £36.6 million hostile takeover bid by Petrocon, the engineering and surveying business, for James Wilkes, another engineer.

The bid was announced on Monday, but it is the events leading up to the news that have attracted the panel's concern, in particular a 26 per cent rise in the Wilkes share price to 189p while behind-the-scenes negotiations were going on.

Henry Cooke Lumsden, the Manchester broker, bought a parcel of Wilkes shares on behalf of Petrocon on January 10, when the price was 140p. Between January 8 and 16, Cooke's corporate finance side, in conjunction with Smith New Court Corporate Finance, secretly sounded out a total of 14 institutional shareholders, far



Seat on the board: Ann Burdus brings her international experience to the board as a non-executive director

BAe cuts 450 jobs but may buy Prestwick

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Aerospace is to cut 450 jobs in its dynamics division. The company claimed its ability to undertake guided weapons projects would be damaged unless the government took an early decision to buy its Astra air-to-air missile system.

The cutbacks accompanied confirmation that BAe may buy Prestwick airport, in Ayrshire, from BAA, the airport operator, in an effort to protect its 2,000 staff there.

"We are in discussions with BAA about protecting our manufacturing plant there and the operation of our flying college," BAe said.

The renewed spate of job losses and doubts over the future of Prestwick airport underline the pressure on BAe as it struggles reshape its operations and restore City credibility after last autumn's disastrous rights issue.

BAe is developing Glasgow as Scotland's International airport in place of Prestwick. But BAe relies upon the Prestwick runway to fly our completed Jetstream 31 and 41 commuter aircraft, and for the operation of its commercial flying school.

The latest job losses in the

dynamics division, to take effect by May, are in addition to 2,400 announced last March. The cutbacks will fall hardest upon the Stevenage site, where the headcount will be reduced by 300 to 3,700. Stevenage is centre of BAe's missile research and development.

At the missile manufacturing plant at Luton, near Bolton, Lancashire, the workforce will be cut by 130 to 1,470. The workforce at the Bristol systems integration operation will also be cut, by 20, to 530.

David Laybourn, managing director of the dynamics division, said the cutbacks

Final tenders to supply Astraam, an advanced air-to-air missile intended to replace the Sidewinder now in service with the Royal Air Force, were submitted at the end of January. BAe is bidding against BGT of Germany and a consortium comprising Matra of France and GEC Marconi of Britain.

Alan Clark, the defence procurement minister, has promised a decision by early spring.

BAe is thought to believe that further job losses within the dynamics division will be unavoidable if the company does not receive an order by April. BAe says the missile has excellent export potential if it is bought by the Ministry of Defence.

Dawson wears new look

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

A BOARDROOM shake-up at Dawson International, the textile group, has led to the departure of two directors. The group, which owns the Pringle and Ballantyne brand names, is to pay six-figure compensation to Brian Faulkner and Bill Simpson.

Dawson, which appointed Nick Kuensberg as its UK chief executive in August, has reorganised the group into two main companies, Dawson Consumer Products and Dawson Premier Brands.

Ronald Miller, the group's chairman, said there would be no redundancies or reorganisation at factory level.

Ann Burdus becomes a non-executive director of Dawson. She has international experience in advertising and marketing at McCann Erickson, Interpublic Group and AGB Research. Mr Kuensberg becomes chief executive of Premier Brands, while Philip Kemp becomes chief executive consumer products.

Management of the company will be through a chairman's committee comprising Mr Miller, John Embury, finance director, Mr Kemp and Mr Kuensberg.

Clark: spring decision



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There are three categories for those wishing to enter the competition — under-11s, over-11s and professional graphic designers.

M Cot conceded that despite the desire for a single currency, the very word "euro" is controversial. In Germany, it is virtually unpronounceable in English; its principal connotation is as a 28 per cent proof beer. M Cot produced the first designs for the competition, produced by "Nathalie", a Strasbourg student. Nathalie's notes consist of rather hazy European maps, splodges of colour and a wilting flower, the Europa, which, perhaps prophetically, died out in the sixteenth century.

In the commission, meanwhile, the debate rages as to what to call one-hundredth of an euro. The Latin term "as", used for small coins in Roman times, has been suggested but faces ridicule from Anglophones. All national denominations — pence, cents, pfen-

nigs and the like — have been ruled out.

The commission estimates that 68 million euro coins will be needed to float the new currency. This would assume 200 coins for each of the Community's 340 million inhabitants.

The socialist competition is waging with a similar challenge launched in France, and sponsored by the French government to the tune of 500,000 of those old-fashioned things called francs. Pierre Bertrand, the French finance minister, has questioned the need for any royalty to appear on euro, but Britain was given the wink at Maastricht that the Queen could appear on one side of the new currency.

M Cot admitted that all currency names would be welcomed in his competition, even conceding that something called the pound would be considered for Euro-dominance. "I don't think it would get very far, though," he said.

Car sales fall to lowest for 10 years

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CARS sales last month fell to their lowest since 1982 in spite of price cutting and discount deals for fleet buyers.

January figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders indicated that relief for the motor industry is a long way off after a 1991 performance in which sales fell by a fifth.

The government was hoping for a slight recovery, but sales of new cars sank to 153,682, 6.02 per cent below the January 1991 total.

However, the industry said the 6 per cent drop was distorted by late registrations in the last few days of the month by manufacturers willing to do cheap deals of the sort criticised by the monopolies commission's investigation into car pricing this week.

The commission said large discounts to fleets forced manufacturers to charge private buyers more.

After 20 days of the month, the market was down 16 per cent, with Vauxhall leading Ford, traditionally Britain's largest car company, with a 21.3 per cent share of the market compared with Ford's 18.3 per cent.

However, Ford is thought to have registered about 15,000 cars in the last few days of the month to take sales to 38,502 and a market share of 25.05 per cent.

Vauxhall slipped back to a 19.94 per cent share, registering 30,643 cars, while Rover suffered worst, with its market share slipping from

15.4 per cent the previous January, to 11.95 per cent with 18,367 cars registered last month.

Vauxhall said: "A fall of just 6 per cent in January sales does not indicate in any way that the recession in the new car market is easing. The figure masked a lot of activity in the final few days of the month which seemed to involve what we can only describe as unpredictable market forces."

Sir Hal Miller, chief executive of the SMMT, said: "While the shortfall was the smallest since March 1990, it is still the lowest January total since 1982 and down 25 per cent on January 1990, which, in turn, was more than 6 per cent below 1989."

"This adds up to continuing bad news for the motor industry and demonstrates that a boost for car sales is still desperately needed."

Ford has been working hard in recent weeks to clear a huge backlog of cars made in 1991 with heavy discounts.

There was a good performance from Peugeot Talbot, which further increased its market share from 7.19 per cent to 8.05 per cent with 12,378 registrations.

Sales of Jaguars continued to slide, with January down from 8,06 in the same month of 1991 to 5,61, while Rolls-Royce/Bentley sales also dropped from 107 to 75 and Lotus from 187 to just 66.

Nissan, in its first month under the direct control of the Japanese manufacturer, suffered a drop in sales from 7,238 to 4,819. Audi-Volkswagen registrations also fell, as did those of Fiat, Honda, Volvo, Alfa Romeo, Mazda, Saab and Skoda, while Mercedes-Benz was about the same. There were increases for Toyota, Suzuki, Seat, Renault, Porsche and Citroën.

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Mr Justice Knowlton accepted that Mr Nadir might prejudice his criminal defence by giving evidence in the civil action. But he asked for undertakings from the plaintiff for Mr Nadir's protection. The judge ordered



Court setback: Mr Nadir lost his plea for a postponement of the civil action.

Nadir fails to delay civil suit

ASIL Nadir, former chairman of Poly Peck International, has failed in the High Court to postpone a £378 million civil suit while he faces a separate criminal prosecution.

Christopher Morris, the Poly Peck joint administrator from Touche Ross, is suing Mr Nadir on behalf of Poly Peck to recover the sum, which is owed to creditors.

Mr Justice Knowlton accepted that Mr Nadir might prejudice his criminal defence by giving evidence in the civil action. But he asked for undertakings from the plaintiff for Mr Nadir's protection. The judge ordered

that future hearings in the civil action should be heard in closed court until the case comes to trial. He said it was highly unlikely the civil case will come to trial before the criminal action.

The prosecution must not disclose any information received in evidence from Mr Nadir to third parties. But information can be passed to co-administrators, Richard Stone and Michael Jordan, who are running the commercial affairs of Poly Peck, potential witnesses and the creditors committee, on condition they observe the confidentiality rule.

The judge, on a request

from David Oliver, counsel for Poly Peck, allowed the administrators to use information from the defence to help gain control of company assets in northern Cyprus.

The court heard the administrators were still struggling to gain control of these assets.

Summing up, the judge said the £378 million claim against Mr Nadir was based on alleged fraudulent breach of duty, involving 263 payments and misappropriation of property.

The court also established that Mr Nadir's legal fees were being met by a third party. Mr Nadir was made bankrupt last month.

Rent cuts put life in West End market

By MATTHEW BOND
DRAMATIC cuts in asking rents are at last injecting some life into the depressed West End office market, according to Neil Sinclair, joint managing director of Sinclair Goldsmith, the quoted property agent.

But while the stimulating effect of such cut-price rents is good news for the letting market, the substantial reductions could send a new chill through the investment market, where valuations are usually based on the latest evidence of open-market rents rather than the rent an incumbent tenant is actually paying.

Mr Sinclair's comments came after his firm had successfully let a 45,000 sq ft building in St Martin's Lane to Carlton Television, the new holder of the London weekday commercial television franchise.

The letting, he believed, was the largest single transaction to have taken place in the West End for more than a year.

When the building was completed last June, the initial asking rent sought by its developer, Grosvenor Square Properties, was £47.50 a square foot.

Mr Sinclair said, however, that it was quickly realised that such a rent was simply unrealistic in the current market. So in the autumn of last year the asking rent was cut by a third to £31.50 a square foot.

The landlord very sensibly decided to cut the rent to a level where we could be certain of attracting interest, and it worked," Mr Sinclair said. The final rent that Carlton will pay GSP, a subsidiary of ABP, has not been disclosed but Mr Sinclair said it was "not far off" the reduced asking rent.

Mr Sinclair thinks that every bit as significant as the successful letting of the building is the fact that there was a serious under-bidder.

He added: "Tenants are now coming back into the market because they think it has dropped to a level where it is unlikely to fall further."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TSW confirms appeal to Lords over licence

TELEVISION South West will take its case to the House of Lords after failing on Wednesday in a legal challenge to the loss of its licence to a lower cash bidder in October's ITV auction. After a board meeting yesterday, TSW said it would appeal "in view of the importance of the case to TSW and the shortcomings in the Independent Television Commission's decision-making process".

Three Court of Appeal judges refused by a two-to-one majority on Wednesday to quash the ITC's decision to award the licence to Westcountry Television, which bid £7.8 million against TSW's £16.1 million. TSW, which was granted leave to appeal despite the opposition of Westcountry and the ITC, said it hoped the House of Lords would hear its case this month.

Eastern diversifies

EASTERN Electricity, one of the 12 privatised electricity distributors in England and Wales, has set up a subsidiary to sell combined heat and power systems in Britain. Eastern will distribute the Nutec range made by Nedlco, a Dutch business that has about 12 per cent of the British combined heat and power market. The systems, ranging from 30 kilowatts to 770 kilowatts, are mainly used by commercial premises, such as local authority buildings, hotels and leisure centres, where a supply of electricity and steam is needed.

AmBrit defence costs

AMBRIT International, the oil and gas exploration group, spent \$420,000 defending itself against Pitlochry, an unwanted bidder. AmBrit, which last month recommended a \$7 million offer from United Energy, another oil and gas explorer, disclosed the figure in its results for the year to December 31. These show a 26.2 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £127,000. The 1990 figures were boosted by higher oil prices at the time of the Gulf confrontation. Turnover was £2.64 million against £2.33 million. There is again no dividend.

Court issues tax ruling

INFLATION TAX will be taken fully into account when capital gains tax liability on assets acquired before 1965 is calculated. That is the effect of a Court of Appeal decision on a test case. The Inland Revenue has contended that the allowance was partly lost on assets acquired before the tax was introduced. The test case was brought by a consortium led by David Collison, tax partner of Peters, Elworthy & Moore, a Cambridge accountancy firm, on behalf of a client who inherited antique furniture in 1952. The Inland Revenue can appeal to the House of Lords.

Trump protection plan

TWO of Donald Trump's hotel-casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey, plan to file for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection next month in an effort to reorganise their debts. Such action by managers at the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino and Trump's Castle Casino Resort would mirror that taken last year by Mr Trump's other casino, the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort. Pre-packaged bankruptcies, for which the managers say they plan to file, secure bondholder approvals beforehand to speed what can otherwise be a costly and lengthy stay in the American bankruptcy court.

Exor bid ruling confirmed

By MARTIN BARROW

FRANCE's stock market regulator has confirmed his ruling that Exor, which with its allies forms the main shareholder in Source Perrier, must make a bid for two thirds of the company.

The change of attitude apparent among the developing nations over the best approach to development is, in Mr Sainsbury's view, partly attributable to the collapse of communism in Europe. This has removed the scope for developing countries to play off one bloc against another to pursue economic benefit. Defence spending has also been reduced with the end of East-West confrontation.

Mr Sainsbury will represent the government at the Unctad VIII gathering in Cartagena, Colombia, starting on Sunday and to be attended by about 2,000 delegates from 150 countries.

In an interview with *The Times*, he said he believed the new international environment and the growing recognition among the developing countries of the need for greater self-reliance, meant that Cartagena would represent a "great opportunity". But he made clear that that did not mean telling the developing world "now boys you're on your own".

The time was right, however, for a change of approach to economic development, with the emphasis on "each country being primarily responsible for its own development", he said. This is in keeping with the stance the World Bank and other international agencies have adopted in recent years to foster "good government" as the key to attracting financial resources into developing countries.

Kenneth Dadzie, the Unctad secretary-general, said this week that he expected the Cartagena meeting to open the way to UNCTAD becoming a more relevant, effective and flexible organisation.

Mr Sainsbury is keen to point out that dependency on aid has already dwindled remarkably in many parts of the world. Even in Africa, only about 8 per cent of income comes from foreign aid. In Latin America, the figure is below 1 per cent. Reflecting the government's efforts to relieve the debt problems of the poorest nations, Mr Sainsbury said: "The real debate ought to be focusing on the genuinely least developed



Sainsbury: self-reliance key to attracting financial resources into developing countries.

countries." At present, rapidly advancing economies, such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea, are grouped as developing nations alongside the poverty-stricken nations of sub-Saharan Africa.

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Mr Sainsbury, while opposed to international commodity pacts, such as those for coffee, rubber and oil, does not expect developing countries with natural resources to want to terminate the pacts, however well or badly they function. "Producers will always hanker after managed markets," he said.

This week's call from Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner, for the broader Gatt framework to be responsible for competition rules worldwide, is likely to be debated at Cartagena, as Unctad has responsibility for restrictive practices. Any merging of the two organisations at this stage would, however, be highly premature, Mr Sainsbury said.

An Exor spokesman said that the bid price rule did not apply to Exor and its allies because Nestlé and Indosuez have bid £1.475 a share for all Perrier's capital. They have also reserved the right to drop their bid if they obtain less than 51 per cent of Perrier.

Exor, which is appealing against the ruling, said that if it is forced to bid for Perrier the offer may be worth just £1.235 a share.

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Exor said that if it is constrained to make a bid, the price could be as low as that paid by Saint-Louis when it bought a block of Perrier treasury stock on January 3, two weeks before Nestlé and Indosuez bid.

UK accident report angers Cyprus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

ACCUSATIONS by Britain's Marine Accident Investigation Branch that Cyprus' shipping legislation may be inadequate were furiously denied by government officials on the island, which has worked hard to become a leading maritime nation.

Britain's criticisms came in a draft report on an accident last April in which a Cypriot-flagged cargo vessel sailed on after colliding in bad weather with a Portsmouth fishing trawler whose crew of six drowned. A court in Cyprus later dismissed all charges against the captain and first mate of the Cypriot ship, saying there was no evidence to prove they had abandoned the stricken trawler.

The MAIB report was damning in its general conclusions. Captain Peter Marriot, chief inspector of accidents, said: "There is evidence that the Cyprus merchant shipping legislation may be

inadequate, in parts, to enable the appropriate authority to enforce and fully discharge their international obligations as a leading maritime register."

Sergios Serghiou, the director of merchant shipping in Cyprus, said: "I believe they made this report to satisfy public opinion in Portsmouth."

"Cyprus is an easy victim because we're not a powerful nation."

With 2,100 ships totalling more than 20 million gross tons, Cyprus has the sixth-largest fleet in the world. Keen to avoid criticism that it is a flag of convenience, it has launched an expensive campaign in recent years to improve standards and services.

Limassol claims to be the world's leading ship management centre, hosting companies like Hapag-Lloyd, Columbia, and Seafarers, attracted by a combination of tax incentives, good telecommunications, a skilled local workforce and low living costs.

Louis Loucaides, Cyprus's deputy at-

torney general, who unsuccessfully prosecuted the case against the Zulfikar's captain and first mate, said: "It's a very unfair, inaccurate and misleading report, the motives of which I suspect. Throughout, I don't believe the British authorities have acted objectively. Like in Britain, our courts are independent. As prosecutor, I may even have disagreed with the Zulfikar decision, but it was bona fide and I respect it."

Cyprus appointed a special committee two years ago to upgrade its shipping laws and to match international standards and its work will soon be completed, Mr Serghiou said. But, he added, concerning maritime safety, Cyprus is already up to date, having ratified the International Safety of Life at Sea Convention in 1985.

Bereaved families in Portsmouth last November branded the court's decision a whitewash.

The case was tried under British and international maritime law.

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Domestic customers to benefit from results of Littlechild enquiry into electricity charges

Watchdog promises power price rises of less than inflation

By ROSS THIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY prices for domestic customers in England and Wales will rise on average by less than the rate of inflation in the financial year beginning in April. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the director general of electricity supply, has promised.

Professor Littlechild, head of Ofgem, the regulatory body, said he had secured a commitment to increase averaging less than 3.7 per cent. In total, increases would secure revenue for the companies £30 million below the maximum to which they are entitled under the inflation-linked price control formula.

The director general launched an enquiry into the price rise plans of nine of the companies last October because he was concerned that inflation for the year to the end of March would turn out below expectations when prices for the year were set.

Professor Littlechild has concluded that eight of the

companies will in total receive £60 million more from customers than they should. Four companies, London Electricity, Marweb, Seaboard and Yorkshire Electricity, have promised to refund any excess receipts to customers by charging less next year.

Four other companies, Eastern Electricity, Northern Electric, Norweb and Southern Electric, have insisted that they are entitled to keep the extra revenue, but have agreed to refund excess receipts through lower prices anyway.

The modest increases for domestic customers contrast sharply with forecasts that bulk power prices will rise by 25 to 30 per cent this year.

However, the cost of generating electricity makes up a small component of domestic bills. Most of the cost of supplying households relates to maintenance of a complex distribution network.

Large industrial users, for whom the generating charge

is a much bigger element, face much steeper price increases. Professor Littlechild warned the generators yesterday that he will be monitoring prices in the pool, or spot market, for electricity very closely.

He said customers should regard the outcome of his efforts as satisfactory. However, "regulation would be more straightforward and the companies, as well as customers would benefit, if the controls were less dependent on forecasts of inflation".

The director-general said he would take on board the lessons of the enquiry in his forthcoming review of price controls on the power companies.

Removal of the link between power prices and inflation would be warmly welcomed by many economists and businesses, who have argued that it helps to perpetuate inflationary pressures in the economy.

□ John Collier, chairman of Nuclear Electric, the state-owned atomic power company, has written to the Major Energy Users' Council, protesting at plans by large industrial companies to withhold payment of the 11 per cent levy on power bills used to subsidise the nuclear industry.

Mr Collier said the increase in prices in the electricity pool, which triggered the companies' protest plan, "has nothing to do with the levy". He said most of the £1.2 billion-a-year subsidy was needed to pay for decommissioning of the stations when they reach the end of their lives.

He added: "The viability of both National Power and PowerGen is being assured by subsidies in their hedging contracts with the regional electricity companies, at a level roughly equivalent to the levy."

"Real price rises in the pool are inevitable unless generators' true operating costs as these subsidies decline."

Team of three is named to replace chief of Lloyd's

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE search for a successor to Alan Lord as chief executive of Lloyd's of London has been postponed for at least a year, pending completion and implementation of a report on the future governance of the market.

Lloyd's had intended to appoint a replacement to take over when Mr Lord retires in June. Goddard Kay Rogers, a firm of headhunters, was hired last year to draw up a short list of candidates.

However, the plan has been abandoned after controversy over the rejection by the Council of Lloyd's of recommendations on governance in the recent Rowland Task Force report. The section on governance, which recommended splitting the council's regulatory and market operating roles, was the only part of the report to be rejected out of hand by the council.

Adverse reaction to the decision led to the appointment last month of a working party, to be chaired by Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, to examine the governance issue. That was widely seen as a climbdown by the council.

Mr Lord said yesterday that from July 1 his role

would be taken over by a triumvirate of senior Lloyd's officials: John Gaynor, head of finance; Andrew Duguid, head of market services, and Bob Hewes, head of regulatory services.

The appointment of the three-man team would ensure "the continued management of the Corporation in the style we have become used to in the past few years". Mr Lord said there would be "no hiatus, no lacuna".

The Morse working group is not expected to report until early autumn and any recommendations are unlikely to be implemented before the summer of 1993.

The full membership of the working party was announced yesterday. It has a distinctly heavyweight look to it, reflecting the importance that is attached to the issue. In addition to Sir Jeremy and David Rowland, the chairman of the Task Force, the nine-man committee includes Sir David Walker, the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, Neil Shaw, the chairman of Tate & Lyle, and Mr Hewes.

Mr Lord, aged 62, has been chief executive since March 1986.

Inland revenue to pay back tax

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Inland Revenue has set about tracing more than 7 million people who are paying tax unnecessarily.

They are non-taxpayers who have not registered for interest on their savings to be paid gross.

The Inland Revenue is launching a £500,000 advertising campaign this weekend to encourage savers to claim back tax deducted from their interest or the dividends paid on shares and unit trusts.

To help people to make applications simply and quickly, all tax refund offices will be manned from 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week from Sunday to deal with free-phone calls from investors who believe they are affected.

BT will connect people with their local tax office if they telephone 0800 66 0800.

Most of the people who qualify for refunds are children, pensioners and wives who are not in paid employment. Since last April, they have been able to register savings accounts for gross payment of interest.

So far, 13 million accounts are receiving interest without deduction of interest. This probably accounts for half of the accounts held by the 15 million non-taxpayer savers, according to Francis Maude, the financial secretary to the Treasury, who launched the Taxback scheme yesterday.

Children and pensioners may only be owed a few pounds each, said Mr Maude. Others could be owed hundreds of pounds.

The overpaid tax can be claimed back to April last year, when composite rate tax was replaced by basic rate tax on savings.

This increased the tax rate on savings from 22 per cent for basic rate taxpayers to 25 per cent. However, it allowed non-taxpayers to avoid paying tax on their savings.

Those affected are mostly people with an income below £60 a week, although where pensioners are concerned, that sum can be substantially greater.

Kevin Maxwell questioned

By NEIL BENNETT

BANKING CORRESPONDENT KEVIN Maxwell was questioned in a private hearing in the High Court yesterday about the whereabouts of the missing Maxwell company pension funds.

The court session follows his submission on Wednesday of an affidavit to the pension fund liquidators. This, for the first time, details the financial dealings of Bishopsgate Investment Management, the company that managed the bulk of the pension money, where Mr Maxwell was a director.

Robson Rhodes, the liquidator of BIM, is trying to trace up to £400 million of pension fund assets.

Mr Maxwell was questioned under oath in front of a companies court registrar. The hearing is expected to continue today. Mr Maxwell had claimed that he had the right to remain silent to avoid the risk of self-incrimination.

On Monday, he lost his legal battle to remain silent when the House of Lords refused his appeal request. The Court of Appeal had earlier decided that the Insolvency Act forced him to hand over details about BIM's affairs.



Ties that bind: Stephen Littlechild wants to see price controls less dependent on inflation forecasts

Salomon leaps 67% despite oil loss

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

SALOMON Inc, the scandal-hit Wall Street investment bank, yesterday reported a 67 per cent rise in net profits despite losses in its oil business.

Last year was one of the best on record for Wall Street firms, many of whose profits tripled or even quadrupled on the back of a surging stock market, and an avalanche of new share and bond issues.

Mr Collier said last month that his figures would not match optimistic forecasts of analysts. Net profits rose last year from \$303 million to \$507 million on total revenues up from \$8.9 billion to \$9.1 billion.

The breakdown: Wall Street profits more than doubled from \$416 million to \$1.036

billion, but the Phibro Energy oil trading and refining business plunged \$34 million into the red. In 1990, Phibro's \$492 million profit accounted for more than half the group total.

Last year was one of the best on record for Wall Street firms, many of whose profits tripled or even quadrupled on the back of a surging stock market, and an avalanche of new share and bond issues.

Salomon's new management, headed by Warren Buffett, the billionaire investor, with Deryck Maughan as chief operating officer, has recently changed the system of paying what some analysts regard as excessive bonuses to some of the firm's individuals.

Salomon has suffered a wave of defections of senior

staff in its research department after bonuses were declared. It is expected to announce more departures this month, after paying out the \$130 million bonus pool to senior managing directors. The pool was set up five years ago to keep staff in the aftermath of the 1987 stock market crash.

Salomon declines to break down its figures, but says its Wall Street profits were generated largely from bonds, arbitrage and the highly specialised investments derived from the stock and bond markets. It has already said its breaches of the Treasury bond market rules did not generate a significant profit.

Last August, Salomon admitted breaching the rules in several of the US government Treasury bond auctions but it has not yet been estab-

lished that Salomon committed any wrongdoing in the "short squeeze" last May, in which prices were driven higher and some market traders claim they incurred losses. Four of Salomon's top executives resigned over the scandal.

Investment banking added \$80 million profit, reversing decline in 1989 and 1990 as fees from underwriting new cash-raising by American corporations offset the drop in bids and deals. Its oil refining operations, the third largest in America, lost \$60 million in the final three months of last year, largely because of a write-down of the value of the oil in its pipes.

Donald Howard, Salomon's finance director, said the oil operations had not been "terribly profitable" throughout the year.

France challenges Britain over state firms' accounts

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

FRANCE has challenged Sir Leon Brittan before the European Court of Justice over his contention that leading European Community public-sector companies should submit accounts to Brussels every year.

The move is just the latest development in the catalogue of French objections to the competition commissioner's increasingly vigilant watch over state-aided industrial groups, which pepper the industrial spectrum in France.

The rules are intended to help the Commission detect state aids, such as the sweeteners paid to British Aerospace for the Rover acquisition.

At an early stage and thus prevent lengthy legal wrangles, France, which had claimed that he had the right to remain silent to avoid the risk of self-incrimination.

We are contesting the substance as well as the form of these rules. We think the commission is discriminating against public-sector companies — large private companies are not required to submit these reports. It puts

public companies in an inferior position," a French official said.

It is the second time this year France has gone to the court in its rearguard action against Sir Leon. Last month it said the commissioner's agreement to exchange information on EC competition and anti-trust investigations with the American authorities was illegal and needlessly intrusive.

Sir Leon argues both the new accounting and information arrangement fall within his remit; ominously for France, this week he received backing for his

present array of competition weapons from the full 17-member commission.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, last year backed a plan that would have forced Sir Leon to have cleared many of his anti-trust manoeuvres with Martin Bangemann, the industry commissioner, but it was this initiative that was defeated in the commission this week.

France and Italy both accused Sir Leon of wrecking the interests of European industry last October when he blocked the bid by ATR, the Franco-Italian plane maker, for De Havilland of Canada, and the French government clearly refuses to let the matter rest.

The Court of Justice normally takes at least two years to consider such appeals.

In the case of the competition information exchange, France argues that Sir Leon has no right to make deals unilaterally with third countries; the argument against the new accounts procedure is that it discriminates between public and private companies, which according to the Treaty of Rome should be treated equally in competition cases.

Cathay chief takes the controls at Dan-Air

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Olsen, the European general manager of Cathay Pacific, who has been with the Hong Kong-based long-haul airline for 25 years, is to take over the day-to-day running of Dan-Air. Mr Olsen will take over as group chief executive in April and, according to David James, Dan-Air's chairman, will be "riding into where the gunfire is thickest".

Dan-Air is facing what many within the aviation and travel industry regard as its most critical year.

Mr James put together a financial restructuring last year that pulled the group back from the brink of collapse, and outlined a business strategy that would turn the struggling airline into profit within the next three years. The plan relied on the appointment of

a chief executive who would be able to push through the structural changes.

Although Mr Olsen, aged 49, has had only limited experience of short-haul scheduled operations or of charter flights, his success in developing Cathay's high-quality reputation among European travellers won him what could prove to be one of the toughest jobs in the British aviation industry.

Mr James, who had originally said he would give up his involvement with Dan-Air once a new chief executive was appointed but who has now agreed to stay on as chairman, said last night that Mr Olsen's experience in yield management and marketing would help to push Dan-Air upmarket. Over the

past 12 months, Dan-Air has switched its focus from charter to scheduled flights by increasing the number of aircraft dedicated to a growing number of scheduled routes and reducing the number available for charter. This has meant that it has been able to keep its charter rates high as supply has hardly kept pace with demand. Mr James said: "For the first time in our lives we are in the driving seat."

On scheduled routes, within Europe, however, he admitted that competition was fierce. "I accept that we are riding into where the gunfire is thickest and some areas are outside our control."

Passenger traffic, he said,

gross domestic product and many of his forecasts had been based upon that assumption. "We have no reason to alter our forecast for what we will achieve during 1991, but for 1992 much depends on market growth, which is outside our control."

Mr Olsen said that when he joined Cathay it had been considered a short-haul airline operating services to the Asian region. "I am going to this job fresh but not without experience," he said. "It would be premature for me to say what we will be concentrating on. I need to learn about the business, understand it and achieve a balance between the scheduled and charter operations. Most important of all, I must make sure that we remain viable."

Figures suggest delay in recovery

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT
THE downturn in business confidence reported by the Confederation of British Industry was the main cause of an 0.6 per cent fall in the government's longer leading indicator for January, the Central Statistical Office (CSO) said.

In the City, the drop in the longer leader, which tracks turning points in economic activity about ten months ahead, and a slight downturn in the shorter leading index, which looks four months forward, were seen as confirmation that recovery will be delayed this year, with a modest upturn coming only in the second half.

Robert Lind, economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, said a fall-back in the indicators had been expected on the basis of recent survey evidence and official economic data. He believes output could fall for a few months before a "mild upturn" in the second half of this year.

The CSO said the longer leading index turned up in May 1990 and continued to rise until last October.

Provisional figures suggest that a turning point may have been reached last May in the shorter leading index, which has also shown a slight downturn because of the latest gloomy survey results and lower registrations of new cars.

The coincident index, which traces the business cycle, has started to decline at a markedly slower rate since last May, after more favourable survey evidence on stocks and capacity. The CSO has, however, cautioned against reading too much into the coincident data, given their partial nature.

Investment banking added \$80 million profit, reversing decline in 1989 and 1990 as fees from underwriting new cash-raising by American corporations offset the drop in bids and deals. Its oil refining operations, the third largest in America, lost \$60 million in the final three months of last year, largely because of a write-down of the value of the oil in its pipes.

Donald Howard, Salomon's finance director, said the oil operations had not been "terribly profitable" throughout the year.

National Westminster Bank Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 7 February 1992:

Net Interest per annum	Gross Interest per annum*	Gross C.A.R.T.

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COMMENT

Forgetting the bid essentials

The hostile assault on James Wilkes by Petrocon was hardly a clash of corporate titans. But interest has been quickened by a swift and firm slap on the wrist by the Takeover Panel for all three corporate finance advisers then involved, including N M Rothschild, one of the City's blue-blooded merchant banks. Some discreet advance canvassing has become an accepted practice, to establish if there is even minimal support for a mooted takeover bid. In an excess of zeal Henry Cooke Corporate Finance and Smith New Court Corporate Finance went considerably further. Their claim of 30 per cent verbal support by Monday, when Petrocon's bid was finally announced, suggests that, allowing for a few dissenting voices, a sizeable chunk of the share register must have been in on the secret.

There are no prizes for guessing what the share price did next, and it is up to the Stock Exchange's insider dealing unit to decide if there were suspicious share dealings and if so, what action to take next. The panel has ruled that the two securities houses, which should have been particularly careful in such circumstances, breached the code by not consulting panel executives; they are duly criticised. Rothschild, because of what looks like a logistical problem, then failed to put out an announcement of the breakdown of talks between the two parties until the share price had shot ahead further, although the bank takes less of a caning from the panel.

Smith New Court and Henry Cooke still appear to be learning in such bid advice and should have done their homework better. As for Rothschild, it is tempting to wonder if takeovers are becoming so rare that even hardened professionals have forgotten what they are supposed to be doing. Clients and shareholders deserve better. Professionals should reacquaint themselves with the rulebook.

Thank you Lloyds

Forwell Group's collapse is a reminder of how easily the sensitive relationship between a company and its bank can degenerate into open warfare. Forwell's management blames Lloyds Bank for the company's failure, because Lloyds insisted that it reduce its debts and failed to support a rescue plan. Lloyds in turn believes it did everything it could to save the company, but was ultimately forced to call in its £1.4 million loan to protect its shareholders and depositors, although this precipitated the collapse.

Similar disputes are occurring across the country, resulting in receiverships, liquidations, job losses and losses to banks. In an increasing number of bigger cases, banks move Heaven and Earth to rescue a troubled company which has a viable core business. Most of the time they shrink from continuing high-risk capital to troubled businesses and feel obliged to "cavil" their losses.

What makes Lloyds' behaviour in this case disgraceful are the letters sent to two of Forwell's staff on January 27, while it was still trying to formulate a rescue plan. These said the company was bankrupt. The mistake stemmed from a misunderstanding in one of Lloyds' branches and the bank has apologised. But these irresponsible letters shattered morale in Forwell's offices and effectively killed any hope of deliverance.

Almost 50,000 companies went into receivership or liquidation in Britain last year, with devastating effects on the banks' balance sheets. The banks need to treat surviving businesses with care, for their own sakes as well as the economy's.

The Bull-IBM deal was a nimble piece of business and political footwork by the French prime minister, argues Wolfgang Münchau

There used to be a saying in the computer industry that "nobody ever got fired for choosing IBM". Edith Cresson, the French prime minister, must have remembered that when she chose IBM, and not Hewlett-Packard, the apparent front-runner as a strategic partner for Groupe Bull, the French state-owned computer maker.

The deal, under which IBM takes a stake in the electronics group, amounts to a rare coup for the stumbling Cresson government, despite widespread and justified doubts about her ambitious industrial policy, and especially her seemingly quixotic quest to sort out the mess in which the French state-owned electronics industry has landed itself. A genuinely good business deal always serves more than one purpose, and this appears to be so with the latest Bull deal.

For IBM, the big attraction is the prospect of gaining access to the lucrative government procurement market. There also exists at present a tough battle between various computer standards, and it is crucial for IBM to lure as many competitors as possible into its own technological camp. In return for these benefits, IBM was prepared to be generous. It will invest about \$100 million, perhaps more, for a stake in Bull of between 5 and 10 per cent; but for IBM this is only a token gesture to show "commitment".

For Bull the deal brings access to IBM's second-generation technology, technology it failed to develop in the Eighties, and which it now has no chance of catching up on without outside help. Mme Cresson, true to age-old Gallic fears of the East, was notably smug about an earlier deal to bring in Japan's NEC.

For her government, the latest move, along with a host of others involving IBM, Apple Computer, Hewlett-Packard, and SGS Thomson, the Franco-Italian computer maker, is the second most important step in the restructuring of France's electronics industry. The first big reshuffle came in December with the announced merger of the Thomson electronics group and the state-owned nuclear energy group into a giant holding company to be called Thomson-CEA.

Mme Cresson's decision to choose a private-sector partner, and especially IBM, rather than Hewlett-Packard — which, according to some industry insiders, would have offered a technologically superior deal — shows French industrial policy at its most Machiavellian, not



No more chauvinists: Edith Cresson and Francis Lorentz are happy to choose IBM

least because of the European dimension.

For Sir Leon Brittan, the European competition commissioner, it might have more frustrating implications. Sir Leon is looking at a promised \$6 billion French government package made up of new capital and research subsidies, aimed at helping Bull to escape its predicament. He is no friend of French state subsidies, and this deal will make it harder for him to raise objections against what many people in the industry would regard as an unfair state subsidy.

The commission uses the private investor test as a benchmark for its decisions: if a private investor — IBM in this case — participates in a capital increase, then, so the argument goes, the action must be justified on commercial grounds and does not constitute a hidden subsidy. The commission would find it very difficult to prove that the French government is subsidising Bull, even if superficially this appears to be the case.

For the rest of Europe, the deal means an end to hopes — or fears — that there exists a wholly indigenous European solution to the difficulties of the sector.

Siemens ridiculed the European idea from the outset, and announced last year that it has struck a

deal with IBM over the joint production of a 16-megabit chip. An agreement to develop a 64-megabit chip had already been in place.

The change in French attitudes towards so-called European solutions is subtle though unmistakeable. Francis Lorentz, chairman of Bull, said that last year he had proposed to Carlo De Benedetti, president of Olivetti, and to Siemens, of Germany, a joint venture company aimed at exploiting the upper and most profitable segment of the market. "But nothing happened," he said.

It may be, M Lorentz believes, that we have the wrong idea about what is meant by European industry. "European means to have one or several decision centres based in Europe, to develop European competence, to have high value-added," he said. "To do that, you need research centres. All of us have to work closely with the Americans and the Japanese. However, if the decision centre is moving from one country to another, the companies will not have the same value-added, and the same know-how base."

The bottom line for M Lorentz is ownership. European means majority owned by Europeans. Hence, he argues that "ICL has become Japa-



nese. That is not my problem. I like the people, they do good work. But they can't say they are Europeans."

All these events occur against a backdrop of severe difficulties for the whole industry. Excepting ICL, none of the indigenous European computer companies is making any money. Last year, computer sales were down by 7.8 per cent worldwide, according to Dataquest, an American consultancy. Why that should be so is not quite as obvious as it seems. The recession, the usual excuse for failure, can at best offer a partial explanation. The computer industry has also become victim of its own technological success. The market may have grown strongly throughout the Eighties, but the growth of technology has outstripped demand, and costs, especially research and development, have escalated.

In other industries this would have led to concentration. Not so here. The computer industry might be one of the most competitive, but it is also one of the least hostile. The approach is co-operative, at least on the surface. Of all the computer makers, there is nobody more expert at this game than IBM.

Signor De Benedetti said this week that he, too, had been approached by IBM, but he rejected IBM's plans, which he considers a

"Trojan horse" strategy. The wider fear is that IBM might behave like a computer virus, which starts unnoticed, ending up corrupting and destroying the entire system.

Whatever the merits of these alliances, companies such as Bull often have little choice. From Bull's point of view, the most important aspect of this alliance is not the symbolic equity injection, but the cost-saving to be realised through joint production and, by far the most important, the access to IBM's second-generation technology, used mainly in workstations — the only growing segment of the market. These workstations are based on a technology that goes by the name of Risc, or reduced instruction set computing, a technique that uses fewer instructions to a microprocessor, thereby speeding up the performance of a computer.

Bull has failed to develop its own Risc technology, and has instead opted for a Risc technology based on the widely available Mips chip, which is supported by the Advanced Computing Environment (ACE), a consortium of over 40 computer makers. This consortium includes Bull, but not IBM, HP or Apple.

In commercial terms, the difference between these systems is that IBM's or HP's proprietary Risc technology is more "up-market" than that of Mips in that it is expected to command higher profit margins. Both IBM and HP are developing their own technology, but there exists a body of opinion which holds that HP's Risc technology is superior to IBM's. HP has another advantage in that its market share of workstations in Europe is greater than that of IBM.

For Bull, however, the IBM deal offers additional attractions, not least the opportunity to participate in the most strategic of alliances yet struck in this industry: the co-operation deal struck last year between IBM, Motorola, the chip maker, and Apple, IBM's erstwhile arch-rival and now apparently one of its closest allies.

From these considerations, one might conclude that competition in this industry is not merely between companies, but between groups of companies that share technologies, and that the make-up of such alliances is prone to change.

Michael Armstrong, head of IBM's international trade business, said that no single company, however big, has the resources to go it alone. IBM recognises this trend some time ago yet it remains the world's largest, and also Europe's largest, computer maker, despite its much-reported financial problems. In Britain alone, the company has a turnover of \$4 billion, dwarfing anybody else.

Most important, the IBM-Bull alliance is a welcome departure from old-fashioned French industrial policy, which has finally recognised that even the Paris version of Euro-chauvinism has its limits.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Murray to mint it for Hill

AFTER a year of sackings and financial woe, Hill Samuel, the TSB's merchant banking arm, finally seems to be getting things right. It has found a new vice-chairman in Murray Stuart, deputy chairman of the Audit Commission and one of Britain's most able business leaders. Stuart, who stepped down as chief executive of Beriford International in December and is a past chairman of MB Group, takes up his new role on February 18 and plans to devote a third of his time to Hill Samuel's affairs. In particular, he will be helping Richard Heley, head of corporate finance, drum up some new business — something the bank could use after crashing to a loss of £419 million in the year to October 1991, the worst such fall in British merchant banking history. Lack of money was not in evidence when Hill Samuel held its annual dinner for financial editors in London last night. The site chosen for the feast was Spencer House, ancestral home of the Princess of Wales, and a venue that does not come cheap.



trade and industry department and Foreign Office were at Westminster to see the van, sponsored by Ernst & Young, the accountant, on its way — it escaped being wheel-clamped, to the disappointment of photographers present — nothing was subsequently heard of it ... until now, that is. It seems that the Law Society has dragged the van back out of obscurity to appear in a series of roadshows planned for March and April. Solicitors, it says, will be able to learn about dealing with the EC and the market. Can't wait.

Far-sighted

TIM Sainsbury, minister for trade, has discovered a novel use for the Canary Wharf skyscraper in London's Docklands. His new office on Victoria Street, just across the road from the local Sainsbury branch, commands a panoramic view of London's landmarks, including the distinctive Canary Wharf obelisk. It seems that he finds the monument to Olympia & York's enterprise quite useful for judging the quality of air in the capital. Indeed, the presence of smog may have dire consequences for his dialogue with the captains of British

Glass winners

LALIQUE, the French family-owned crystal company with headquarters in Paris's Rue Royale, has struck a deal with the organisers of the Winter Olympics, which open in Albertville tomorrow. Not only is it providing the games with the 330 medals to be distributed during the two-week event but has broken with Olympic tradition by making them out of crystal. The new-style medals are engraved with a mountain perspective and fringed by gold, silver or bronze. Lalique will not disclose the quantity of fine gold and pure silver used, the price per medal struck with the Olympic Committee, or details of its annual financial results. But the deal cannot hurt profits at the company, which relies on exports for 80 per cent of its earnings, employs 600 people and has shops in London, Frankfurt, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong and Osaka.

Irons out

The high level of redundancies at BP — where 3,000 jobs are to go this year — has led to the revival of an old joke that did the rounds in the City after the 1987 stock market crash when jobs were being lost left, right and centre. Question: What do you call an optimist at BP? Answer: Someone who keeps five shirts in their cupboard on Sunday.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

British Gas's conservation trust needs a political will to drive it

From the Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy

Sir, The announcement (Business News, February 5) that British Gas is to set up a trust to finance installation of £120 million p.a. worth of energy conservation measures into its customers' homes and offices, is welcome. It is made doubly so by the knowledge that the regulatory body, Ofgas, has led to the world's most pressing environmental threat, global warming. Numerous studies

have demonstrated the potential for the developed world drastically to reduce energy consumption by improving efficiency, whilst still improving living standards. All that is required to achieve this is sufficient political will, together with appropriate incentives for the purveyors of pollution to assist in the process.

For the first time in Britain,

we now have the potential to introduce such incentives.

Both Ofgas and British Gas are to be congratulated upon their achievements. All that remains is to ensure that there is sufficient political will behind the trust to ensure that it succeeds.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW WARREN,

Director,

Association for the

Conservation of Energy.

9 Sherlock Mews, W1.

Prophet and loss

From Mr Joshua Vanneck

Sir, Valuing intangibles on extrapolated past results is neither prudent nor cautious.

In the future, when reported losses occur, investors and bankers will have the added alarm of sudden write-downs in intangible assets.

Surely this is a "fair weather" concept which imprudently ignores the downside "storm" scenario.

To conclude: predictions into the future really belong

in the chairman's and directors' reports.

Auditors quite rightly prophesy that a company is a "going concern" into the short-term future, but prophecy is not an exact science and does not deserve the credibility of a place in the balance sheet.

Yours faithfully,
JOSHUA VANNECK,
69 Barrons Way,
Cambridge,
Cambridgeshire.

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	INTEREST PAID	GROSS RATE	NET RATE		INTEREST PAID	GROSS RATE	NET RATE
BONUS 91 - MATURITY ISSUE				CHAMPION BOND	Annually	6.17%	6.03%
£2,500+ (with 4% gross guaranteed bonus)	Annually	9.80%	7.85%	CHAMPION BOND	Annually	7.57%	5.68%
£25,000+ (with 5% gross guaranteed bonus)	Annually	10.80%	8.10%	FLEXIBLE FUND	Half Yearly	5.70%	4.18%
				THRIFT SAVERS	Annually	5.50%	4.13%
PREMIUM INCOME	Monthly	8.75%	6.56%	DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	Half Yearly	3.50%	2.63%
£5,000+	Monthly	9.25%	6.94%	DEPOSIT	Company Accounts	Half Yearly	3.37%
£10,000+	Monthly	9.75%	7.31%	Gross Accounts	Half Yearly	8.45%	—
£25,000+	Monthly	10.25%	7.81%				
				ORDINARY SHARE	Half Yearly	2.25%	1.69%
CAPITAL PLUS SPECIAL ISSUE	Annually	8.63%	6.47%				
£10,000+	Annually	9.17%	6.98%				
£25,000+	Annually	9.72%	7.57%				
CAPITAL PLUS	Annually	7.70%	5.78%				
SUPERSHARE PLUS	Annually	4.80%	3.60%				
£1+	Annually	7.65%	5.74%				



KYOSHI WATANO, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ALPS ELECTRIC (UK) LTD.

How I got where I am today

Kyoshi Watano is a board member of Alps, a \$3 billion global electronics firm. He also heads a United Kingdom workforce of over 600 people manufacturing and exporting high technology electronic components to customers throughout Europe. How did he get where he is today? He successfully developed his manufacturing operations in a city with the most advanced telecommunications in Britain. Where European markets are easily reached by rail, air and sea. And where 25 million people live within a 2 hour drive. If you'd like your company to get somewhere, ring Bob Hill, Commercial Director Milton Keynes Development Corporation, on (0908) 692692.

MILTON KEYNES

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

What price help on the move?

Women would feel more secure with a portable telephone, especially when driving alone. A recent Gallup survey for Motorola claims that 73 per cent of people feel safer when carrying a cellular telephone. For women the figure is 97 per cent. Half those interviewed said that when driving alone they had experienced an incident in which a cellular telephone would have helped.

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust has introduced a scheme to provide mobile communications at concessionary subscription rates for use in emergencies, and the Automobile Association has similar plans to help drivers who feel themselves at risk.

Other research also indicates there is a tremendous suppressed demand for mobile telephones — suppressed because of the cost.

The price of the phones is no longer the hurdle it once was, but subscription costs are prohibitive. An adequate hand portable can cost less than £200 and the price of car telephones is even lower.

A top-range model, however, can still be expensive: Motorola's pocket phone to be announced soon will cost more than £600.

Nor is the cost of the calls a deterrent: these range from a peak 33p a minute within the greater London area down to the cheap rate of 10p a minute.

Many potential customers are being held back by an annual subscription fee of £300, plus VAT. These charges are specified by the two cellular telephone operators, Cellnet and Vodafone. The total bill for an average Cellnet customer, for example, is £60 a month.

Customers cannot deal directly with either operator but must use one of about 60 airline retailers, who act as intermediaries. Although these retailers may vary, some of the charges' prices' are unlikely to be any cheaper on average and, may, well, be higher.

The eventual answer is likely to be personal

The cost of mobile phones is inhibiting use in areas of urgent demand. Matthew May reports

communications networks (PCNs) — a new type of system expected to provide mobile telephones for about half the cost of the present cellular network telephones, although none of those planning services will comment on what price levels they expect to set.

In a recent survey by one of three companies planning to launch a PCN, Unitel gave 400 people, both ordinary householders and small businesses, a hand portable connected to the existing cellular networks but charged them as if they were using a PCN.

The conclusion was that if mobile telephones were available at that price tomorrow, they would attract at least two million more users to the existing 1.3 million who use the cellular networks.

Unitel promises it will have a PCN ready to start by mid-1993 that could reach 25 per cent of the population and is likely to cover the area inside the M25, London's orbital motorway. Some telecommunications experts, however, doubt that anything more than a pilot service will be in operation before 1995.

PCNs require investment of more than £1 billion, and both the recession and the disastrous failure of Telepoint, which was meant to provide Britain with a world first in cheap mobile telephones, have made the industry more cautious.



Warm tones: women feel safer with mobile phones

In October, Phonepoint, the last of the three telepoint services, was switched off. It had attracted only 800 users and like the other services was hampered by being unable to take incoming calls and by the need for customers to be within 100 yards of a base station before the telephone could be used.

Only one licensed operator, Hutchinson Personal Communications, is still planning a telepoint network and hoping to overcome the problem of telepoint phones being unable to receive calls by linking them to a pager. The system, however, will still require users to be in range of a base station.

Last week the AA announced plans for an emergencies-only telephone that operates over the Vodafone cellular network and plugs into a car's cigarette lighter. The telephone can be used only to call the AA or for roadside assistance or the emergency services.

The AA says the new service should be available by the summer.

The cost is still high, however. The unit will be about £200, plus a rental of £10 a month, and although calls will be free it is hoped there will be few of them.

Does your computer make rude remarks to you? While manufacturers struggle to make their machines more user-friendly, Richard Margeris, a catering lecturer at Granville College, in Yorkshire, has developed a program that positively encourages the computer to be nasty towards its operator.

The software, called Custom, has been funded by the employment department's learning technologies unit, and is designed to help hotel and catering trainees to cope with customers' complaints.

Such complaints can make or break a business.

The idea for the program grew out of an unpleasant evening Mr Margeris and his wife had at a hotel. It's a scene that could have come from *Fawlty Towers*, the BBC television comedy series, the couple were left standing in the hotel lobby while the receptionist continued making a fuss over a personal telephone call.

During the meal they were ignored by the waiter and had to order their drinks at the bar and carry them back to the table. The couple complained to the manager who sympathised but said it



The soul of tact: Basil Fawlty (John Cleese) might benefit from computer lessons in handling rude customers

There's a fly in my software

A computer program trains waiters by simulating restaurant complaints

was difficult to train staff in customer care.

"Britons are very complainant about complaints," says Mr Margeris, who used to run his own restaurant. "Good service is not seen as being very important."

Hence the computer-based training package. The first part analyses how complaints arise. The complaints include those from the few customers who go to a restaurant determined to make a fuss, perhaps in the hope of a free meal.

Mr Margeris says: "Within the program we have included ways of spotting those complaints, and those that can arise because of a bad experience somebody has had even before entering the restaurant."

"The program will also identify the complaints that can occasionally arise merely from customer behaviour. Somebody may have decided he cannot stand his dining companion, for example, and takes his unhappiness out on the food or the unfortunate waiter."

The waiters assemble a customer profile. "How am I dressed — shabby, average or immaculate?" the computer asks. "Is it my accent local or non-local? Do I speak perfect English or might I be a tourist? Am I alone or with a group? Is it a mixed-sex group? What is my age bracket? How much alcohol do I seem to have drunk?"

The computer then suggests successful ways of tackling the customer.

Mr Margeris says: "The idea is that the trainee sees

that personal attributes such as accent or dress are a weak indicator of how a customer will respond during a complaint, whereas attitude and alcohol are much stronger."

In the second part of the program, the computer becomes less than friendly. The trainee takes part in role-play simulations in which the computer acts like a complaining customer.

The computer can be programmed to be angry, rude, reasonable or rambling. The trainee's task is to recognise the warning signs and calm the situation.

At the end of a session, trainees are told how many attempts it has taken to reach the correct response. The results are saved for the course tutor to read.

But although the program uses graphics and text to good effect, it cannot yet convey complex factors such as the customer's tone of voice, body posture or facial expression. Future versions may use video pictures and sound for greater realism.

However, Mr Margeris says there are no plans to incorporate a robot arm that grabs the user by the lapels.

GEORGE COLE

News of your choice

A new device will sift information from television and teletext

sonal computer and appears in a small window on one side of the screen. This allows a user to scan the pages the card has selected before either discarding or transferring some into the computer, depending on their suitability.

Peter Kruger, Digiturk's managing director, says: "It can also be programmed to take a few pages that you know always carry, say, business news or politics."

The technique for automatically recording television programmes that feature items of interest works in a similar way. The decoder comes with an infra-red set, allowing the card to be programmed by a video recorder's own handset.

Effectively the card is taught the features of the

word is not mentioned again after a certain length of time.

Use of the device, which costs £495 including its software, is limited to broadcasts that carry Ceefax subtitles.

Only a small proportion of broadcasts, such as the news, carry subtitles, but the level is likely to increase in the coming years.

Mr Kruger says the company, which will show MicroEye TV for the first time at the CeBit computer fair in Hanover next month, had considered developing a decoder that could be triggered by key spoken words.

"We do not believe you can make a practical product at the moment," he says. "With teletext, words come up that do not rely on inflections of speech or people coughing in the middle of sentences. However, it will happen in a matter of a few years."

NICK NUTTALL

become the standard-setter for the emerging technology of reduced instruction set computing (Risc).

The technology simplifies computer processors, allowing them to run faster and is widely used in desktop workstations, the fastest-growing part of the computer market.

IBM faces fierce competition in this area from Hewlett Packard and Sun Microsystems, over which Risc systems will become the industry standard.

The commission is proposing protection not only for written texts but also for statistics, catalogues and other tabulations not yet covered by existing copyright law in many community countries.

The commission says that electronic databases are the literary hypermarkets of the future. The databases will contain factual data, as well as literary and other artistic works, which are already protected against illegal copying.

Call for entries to the 1993 Toshiba Year of Invention

Have you got an invention which could change the world? Or even a small part of it? If so, this year's Toshiba Year of Invention is a great chance to turn your ideas into reality — and win a prize at the same time.

Your invention could be something to do with your work, a hobby, or perhaps the result of a project at school or college.

It doesn't matter where your inspiration comes from, and anyone can enter. Previous winners and finalists have come from all walks of life.

This year Toshiba is offering £100,000 worth of prizes. And if you've got an idea that's promising enough we'll even help you with the development costs.

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So complete the coupon today and post to Toshiba Year of Invention, FREEPOST, Blackhorse Road, London SE8 5BP, for full details and an Entry Form.

TOSHIBA YEAR OF INVENTION

Cheaper picture

The price of high definition television sets has tumbled since Sharp announced that in May it will sell a 36in HDTV set in Japan for £4,500, almost a quarter of the present price.

The usual price, about £17,000, has effectively limited sales to business and hotels. HDTV programmes, whose crystal-clear pictures match the quality of cinema film, are now broadcast in Japan for eight hours a day.

Sharp says the price cut has been achieved by reducing the number of chips used in each set. The new set also has a cathode ray tube that is cheaper to manufacture but sacrifices some clarity.

Manufacturers are hoping

the Barcelona Olympics this summer will stimulate sales because big sporting events are good at showing the benefits of high-definition pictures.

Analysts believe the market will not take off, however, until prices fall below £2,000.

Bank check

Banknotes in Belgium may carry a code to prevent photocopying. The quality of the latest colour photocopiers is so good that forgers are often forsaking more conventional methods of counterfeiting.

The Belgian central bank told *De Standaard* that it is negotiating with manufacturers to include a device in photocopiers that will recognise the code and make them seize up.

Fax tracks

People wanting faxes while they are out and about can now receive them from any nearby machine. Inter City Paging has started a service whereby faxes can be sent to a personal fax number, where they are received and stored by a central computer and an alert sent out to the customer by radio pager. The user finds the nearest fax machine and enters a personal retrieval number and the fax is sent.

The service, which Inter City Paging will work anywhere in the world, will store faxes for up to 72 hours.

Less risk

IBM's decision to buy between 5 and 10 per cent of Groupe Bull, the French computer company, will give it a useful ally in its efforts to

ADVERTISING

Compaq switch on Lite.
Just announced: COMPAQ LTE Lite/20 and LTE Lite/25 notebooks. Ultra light and 386SL power, elephant-size disk. Battery-with-brain allows 4½ hours mains-free use. Neat expansion base option transforms Lite into desktop heavyweight. Our Holborn laptop centre has full info.
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Name _____
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Please tick here the category in which you will be entering:
Individual School University/College
Small Business

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES 8th May 1992.

TOSHIBA CBI

TMI

Learning more about Europe

BY SALLY WATTS

WHAT is most helpful for small businesses needing to learn more about trading in the single European market? Some possibilities are lunch clubs, workshops and seminars, newsletters and advice via a central phone-in. The question was explored in a recent survey of more than 1,000 Surrey firms before the launch of a service to help small businesses in the area come to terms with the challenges of the single market.

A phone-in service proved a popular idea, aimed at giving answers where possible and, where not, pointing small business owners to sources of advice. Short, early-evening seminars were also favoured.

Both services will be introduced when an "Impact Europe" project starts up at Epsom on February 11. Wendy Giff, the project manager, said: "Probably 90 per cent of businesses in this area have fewer than 25 employees. Many don't know where to go for information. We want to create a friendly, local pop-in centre."

The survey was conducted by North East Surrey College of Technology. The new project, in partnership with Surrey University, will provide Pickup Europe activities. Pickup, which means professional, industrial and commercial updating, was set up by the education department to sup-

"How is it that the less business there is the longer hours you have to work?"

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New Zealand escape heavy punishment for fielding lapses on opening day of third Test match

England fail to make the most of good fortune

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN WELLINGTON

ENGLAND spent much of yesterday in such apparent command of the threadbare New Zealand bowling that 500 seemed a conservative ambition. Yet they ended the opening day of this third Test match with the top five gone for less than half that figure, and it might easily have been worse.

New Zealand, who put down seven catches during the second Test, dropped another six yesterday. They may play heavily for such charity.

The chief beneficiary was Alec Stewart, who, having been reprimed on 39, 80 and 84, proceeded to his second century of the series and his third in four Tests. He was out, for 107, shortly before the close, but by then he had guaranteed that England's total would at least be a challenging one on a pitch taking an encouraging amount of spin.

The first four wickets all fell to the off breaks of Dipak Patel. Worthy cricketer though he is, Patel is not remotely in the class of Phillip Tufnell as a spin bowler, and it was plain, even on this first day, that the maverick of Middlesex once more holds the key to the game.

This, of course, makes the dangerous assumption that the match will not be hijacked by another outrageous *tour de force* from Ian Botham. The last, it has to be said, was a while ago now, but it would be typical of Botham to turn on something special, having won his 100th cap in the most unexpected circumstances.

Botham was not even named in England's squad of

12, but found himself hastily drafted in, an hour before the scheduled start, when both Chris Lewis and Derek Pringle were ruled out by injuries. Lewis's sore finger might not normally have been thought sufficient to dislodge him from a Test match, and the imminence of the World Cup must have played its part, but Pringle, who might in any case have made way for Lawrence, was troubled by a deteriorating back problem.

This was an irony, for when his own back condition required surgery in 1988, even the indomitable Botham began to believe 100 Tests was beyond him. "After such a serious operation I was just pleased to play the game again at all," he reflected last night. "Every time I played since got so close, of course it was a travesty, for Patel twice, and Latham contrived to put down straightforward chances off him when Stewart repeatedly mistimed pulls due to the slow pace of the pitch.

Patel was summoned for the 32nd over and split the 83-run opening stand with his third ball. Gooch, whose batting had again suffered from uncertain footwork, was nowhere near the pitch of the ball as he advanced to drive, and he would inevitably have been stumped if the ball had not turned sharply enough to bowl him.

In Graeme Hick's brief but disappointing Test career he has seldom begun an innings in such advantageous conditions. He seemed to sense it. Patel cut disdainfully for four, then twice driven straight for six, once when Hick had only one hand on the bat.

Patel changed ends with the curious figures of one for 31 from four overs, and commenced a long and profitable spell downwind. First, he bowled Hick through a difficult *diverseuse* pitch, for 43, equaling Hick's best Test score. Then he had Smith caught off the leading edge at mid-wicket, two balls after being dropped at slip. Finally, probing outside off stump, he tempted the adventurous Lamb into one late cut too many.

After Hick and Stewart had put on 76 in 13 overs, Patel and Su's clawed the game back for their side, and when Morrison returned from a prolonged grace in the deep to dismiss Stewart, the breathless crowd of the series had something to genuinely cheer them. It may ultimately not be enough, but this was far from the demolition job England had threatened.

Despite all the fuss that was made at the time, especially by Border, the dropping of Marsh and Mark Waugh from the Australian side after the fourth Test match against India had, on balance, the desired effect. Moody had the chance to show he is made of the right stuff, and Phillips to show that he is hardly good enough.

Waugh, for his part, took the opportunity to play himself back into form with a large hundred for New South

Wales. By the end of the fifth Test match on Wednesday, thanks not least to the Perth pitch, the Australians seemed reinvigorated.

Refereeing the series just finished was, thankfully, something of a sinecure, first for Mike Smith, and then for Peter May, two former England captains. They could see for themselves that the umpiring was not very good, but they were there to support the umpires, not to criticise them.

At Adelaide, Chandrakan Pandit, the Indian wicketkeeper, was shown the yellow card, as it were, for overtly disputing several decisions. But the referee's influence on affairs came simply through being there. Only once in a while, as when Australia played West Indies in the Caribbean last year, are they likely to have to assume a higher profile.

Although the players do not like it — bowlers for obvious reasons, and batsmen for fear of being thought spineless if they said they did — the new regulation whereby only one bouncer may be bowled to any one batsman in an over seems to me to work rather well. The occasional no-ball was called from square leg when a bowler transgressed,

INTERIM SCORECARD

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings

Turned through gate — well forward

A J Stewart b Morrison 107 12 0 320 243

Drove over full-length ball

G A Hick b Patel 43 5 2 66 40

Blown away

R A Smith c Rutherford b Patel 6 1 0 31 31

Chipped to short mid-wicket

A J Lamb c Smith b Patel 30 5 0 41 43

Edged attempted out

D A Reave not out 9 0 0 68 65

D V Lawrence not out 0 0 0 0 0

Extras (lb 6, nb 8) 14

Total (5 wds, 85 overs, 590 min) 232

T Botham, R C Russell, P A J DeFreitas and P R Tufnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-63 (Gooch), 2-169 (Hick), 3-169 (Smith), 4-215 (Lamb), 5-235 (Stewart).

BOWLING: Morrison 15-23-0; Patel 8-0-18-0; Su 24-4-0-1 (nb 1); Gooch 10-18-0; Lamb 12-2-0, 2-1-0; Hick 10-18-0-4-0-31-0; Lamb 18-6-43-2; Smith 6-0-1-0-1-0 (one wicket); Stewart 10-18-0-4-0-31-0; Lawrence 10-18-0-4-0-31-0; Jones 10-0-7-0 (one wicket); Reave 10-18-0-4-0-31-0.

INTERIM SCORECARD: Start delayed until 12 noon (60 min) by overnight rain; 50-70 min, 163 overs. Lunch: 83-0 (Gooch, Stewart 32) in 22 overs; 100-140 min, 34 overs. 150-170 min, 40-4 overs. Tea: 188-2 (Stewart 79, Smith 6) in 52 overs; 200-248 min, 63-1 overs. Stewart's 50 in 147 min, 104 balls, 6 fours, 100 in 285 min, 211 balls, 11 fours.

NEW ZEALAND

B R Headland, J G Wright, A H Jones, M D Crowe, K R Rutherford, D N Patel, R T Latham, C L Cairns, T D Sutcliffe, M L Sutcliffe, D Morrison.

Umpires: S. Aldridge and R. Dunn.

New Zealand go on the defensive

A DOGGED, unbeaten 78 by Debbie Hockley, the former New Zealand captain, helped to steer her team slowly towards 184 for five on the close of play on the first day of the second Test match against England at Cook's Gardens, Wanganui, yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

The Kiwis, who won the toss, lost Karen Flummer for one in the second over when Jo Chamberlain removed her off stump.

After Susie Kinsin had Jackie Clark leg-before for 36, Hockley and Penny Kinsella feasted in a record New Zealand third wicket partnership of 105 when

Kinsella edged Chamberlain to Lisa Nye, the wicketkeeper, for 53. The defensive approach gave the English bowlers impressive figures, with Carole Hodges, the off-spinner, sending down 29 overs for only 15 runs, including 18 maidens.

NEW ZEALAND 184 for 5. D Hoddle 78, P Kinsella 53, J Clark 36, S Kinsin 2/26, J Chamberlain 2/26.

ENGLAND: Second Innings

Turned through gate — well forward

A J Stewart b Morrison 107 12 0 320 243

Drove over full-length ball

G A Hick b Patel 43 5 2 66 40

Blown away

R A Smith c Rutherford b Patel 6 1 0 31 31

Chipped to short mid-wicket

A J Lamb c Smith b Patel 30 5 0 41 43

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NEW ZEALAND

B R Headland, J G Wright, A H Jones, M D Crowe, K R Rutherford, D N Patel, R T Latham, C L Cairns, T D Sutcliffe, M L Sutcliffe, D Morrison.

Umpires: S. Aldridge and R. Dunn.

ENGLAND: Third Innings

Turned through gate — well forward

A J Stewart b Morrison 107 12 0 320 243

Drove over full-length ball

G A Hick b Patel 43 5 2 66 40

Blown away

R A Smith c Rutherford b Patel 6 1 0 31 31

Chipped to short mid-wicket

A J Lamb c Smith b Patel 30 5 0 41 43

Edged attempted out

D A Reave not out 9 0 0 68 65

D V Lawrence not out 0 0 0 0 0

Extras (lb 6, nb 8) 14

Total (5 wds, 85 overs, 590 min) 232

T Botham, R C Russell, P A J DeFreitas and P R Tufnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-63 (Gooch), 2-169 (Hick), 3-169 (Smith), 4-215 (Lamb), 5-235 (Stewart).

BOWLING: Morrison 15-23-0; Patel 8-0-18-0; Su 24-4-0-1 (nb 1); Gooch 10-18-0; Lamb 12-2-0, 2-1-0; Hick 10-18-0-4-0-31-0; Lamb 18-6-43-2; Smith 6-0-1-0-1-0 (one wicket); Stewart 10-18-0-4-0-31-0; Lawrence 10-18-0-4-0-31-0; Jones 10-0-7-0 (one wicket); Reave 10-18-0-4-0-31-0.

INTERIM SCORECARD: Start delayed until 12 noon (60 min) by overnight rain; 50-70 min, 163 overs. Lunch: 83-0 (Gooch, Stewart 32) in 22 overs; 100-140 min, 34 overs. 150-170 min, 40-4 overs. Tea: 188-2 (Stewart 79, Smith 6) in 52 overs; 200-248 min, 63-1 overs. Stewart's 50 in 147 min, 104 balls, 6 fours, 100 in 285 min, 211 balls, 11 fours.

NEW ZEALAND

B R Headland, J G Wright, A H Jones, M D Crowe, K R Rutherford, D N Patel, R T Latham, C L Cairns, T D Sutcliffe, M L Sutcliffe, D Morrison.

Umpires: S. Aldridge and R. Dunn.

ENGLAND: Fourth Innings

Turned through gate — well forward

A J Stewart b Morrison 107 12 0 320 243

Drove over full-length ball

G A Hick b Patel 43 5 2 66 40

Blown away

R A Smith c Rutherford b Patel 6 1 0 31 31

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ferry lead
CAMS 28

FOOTBALL

Cascarino is ready to sign for Chelsea

BY DENNIS SIGNY

CHELSEA will today exchange Tommy Boyd, the Scottish defender they bought from Motherwell for £800,000 last summer, for Tony Cascarino, the Republic of Ireland forward who cost Celtic £1.2 million when he moved from Aston Villa in July. No transfer fee is involved.

Cascarino, aged 29, who played for Gillingham and Millwall before Graham Taylor brought him to Aston Villa for £1.5 million, has scored only four times for Celtic in 28 appearances, many of them as a substitute.

The arrival of Cascarino, who will partner Clive Allen, Chelsea's recent acquisition from Manchester City, raises questions about the future of Kerry Dixon at Stamford Bridge. The former England international, who is only ten goals behind Bobby Tambling's record 202 goals for Chelsea, is out of the side with a heel injury, but, like Cascarino at Celtic, has found goals hard to come by this season. Cascarino will be eligible to play against Sheffield United in the fifth round of the FA Cup next week.

Derby to review their security

BY DENNIS SHAW

DERBY County are carrying out an immediate and urgent upgrading of their match security following an incident after the 4-3 FA Cup fourth-round defeat by Aston Villa.

Michael Dunford, the club secretary and general manager, confirmed that a home-supporter had gained entry to the visitors' dressing and had been forcibly ejected.

The episode also carried worrying possible side-effects for Lee Sealey, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, who had been involved in a verbal dispute with the supporter.

Although there is no suggestion that Sealey was to blame for the incident, he was certainly involved in an argument with the fan at a time

when the Football Association is about to arrange for his personal hearing to answer a charge of bringing the game into disrepute.

Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, said yesterday that, as far as he was concerned, such an incident "was terrible". Steve Stride, the Villa secretary, said: "no formal complaint would be made". He said: "We are leaving the matter in Derby's hands."

■ Rotterdam: PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch league leaders, have signed Hans Westerhof to replace Bobby Robson, the former England manager, at the end of this season. Westerhof, who is coaching at FC Groningen, has signed a two-year contract.

Palace face busy time

THE season has gone sour on Crystal Palace. Wednesday night's defeat in the Rumbelows Cup quarter-final left Steve Coppell's side with little, apparently to play for, but it may still be an eventful time at the club (Peter Ball writes). Problems on and off the field have yet to be resolved.

"With the premier league coming next season, we have to be sure to be in it," so we

still have to get a few more points to be safe," Coppell said. "But I think that what happens for the rest of this season will have its effect next season." Speculation has it that Palace will release their most prized assets once safety has been achieved. Andy Gray is the only player on the transfer list, but he is one that Coppell would seem to like to stay. "I don't want him to go," he said.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

STOCKHOLM: International Indoor Championships: 100m, M. Wiltshire (GB), 9.87; 200m, D. Horne (GB), 21.77; 800m, J. Gray (GB), 1min 36.57; 2, D. Horne (GB), 4:09.53; 3,000m, 1, M. Klement (Cze), 7:33.09; 800m, 2, D. Horne (GB), 1:43.32; 2, P. Donovan (Ire), 1:43.30; 5,000m, 1, M. Klement (Cze), 13:14.10; 10,000m, 1, M. Klement (Cze), 29:53.22; 15,000m, 1, M. Klement (Cze), 40:53.23; 30,000m, 1, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 1, M. Klement (Cze), 1:43:32.22; 2, P. Donovan (Ire), 1:43:30.80; 100m, S. Burke (GB), 5.51m; Long Jump: 1, C. Lewis (US), 8.45; 2, L. Starks (US), 8.34; Triple Jump: M. Bruckner (Aust), 17.11m; 200m, 1, S. Farmer (GB), 21.71; 400m, 1, M. Nazarov (CIS), 45.71; 1,500m, 1, N. Artyukov (CIS), 4:38.76; 5,000m, 1, N. Artyukov (CIS), 13:26.40; 10,000m, 1, N. Artyukov (CIS), 30:02.00; 30,000m, 1, N. Artyukov (CIS), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 1, L. Yurkova (CIS), 8.05; 3, J. Baumann (Switz), 8.07; High Jump: 1, G. Wada (Jpn), 2.08; 2, H. Yamamoto (Jpn), 2.07; 3, M. Klement (Cze), 2.06; Long Jump: 1, M. Klement (Cze), 7.51; 2, G. Wada (Jpn), 7.49; 3, M. Klement (Cze), 7.48; 50,000m, 1, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 2, G. Wada (Jpn), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 3, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 4, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 5, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 6, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 7, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 8, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 9, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 10, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 11, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 12, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 13, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 14, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 15, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 16, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 17, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 18, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 19, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 20, M. Klement (Cze), 1:04:23.22; 50,000m, 21, M. 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HEALTH
How did
Churchill
drink so much
and survive?



LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7 1992



MOTORING
Why the
Princess of
Wales chose a
Mercedes

chaos

Somerville girls

STEPHEN MARKSON

One of Oxford's last women's colleges is about to throw 113 years of peace and harmony out of its mulioned windows.

Who dares to let the men in?

The Somerville girl has done well. She is forceful, independent and outspoken. But then she has much to live up to. She knows she may become a prime minister — Somerville uniquely boasts four (Mmes Thatcher, Gandhi, Bandaranaike and Meir) — a writer like Iris Murdoch, Rose Macaulay or Dorothy L. Sayers; a Nobel prize-winning scientist like Dorothy Hodgkin; she may turn out to be a Shirley Williams, a Dilys Powell, an Esther Rantzen; Somervillians all.

"If you met a Somerville girl," says Dr Mary Archer, "you would know she would be seriously clever."

"I think Somerville made us all quite unafraid," says Victoria Glendinning in what must be described as ringing tones. "I've never met a Somerville girl who was afraid of the world."

So is this creature going to take men lying down? She is not. Would women of their spirit look on while "immature, obnoxious young men" sweep in and take half the places? Would Eleanor Rathbone MP, or the withering broadcaster Marghanita Laski, or the BBC's matriarchal Grace Wyndham Goldie have allowed it?

There is certainly something about the air in Somerville. Its very name, called after Mary Somerville, the pioneering Victorian mathematician and astronomer, suggests a summery, villagey, feminine place, quite unsuitable for the male. And while other bastions have fallen — Girton, St Anne's, St Hugh's, Lady Margaret Hall — Somerville is not going to go without a fuss. Across its lawned quadrangle today, every window is festooned with red and black stickers: "Somervillians say NO." On Wednesday night, an emergency motion at the Oxford Union — "This House would keep men out of Somerville" — was carried clamorously, 512 ayes to 109 against.

Letters from Somervillians to the papers this week expressed shock and dismay, headlined, "A lesson in betrayal." What betrayal? There were two. First, whenever the college has been balloted, it has voted to cling steadfastly to its single-sex status, along with St Hilda's, which now becomes the very last redoubt.

Secondly, this final capitulation was decided without consultation. The girls each received leaflets announcing a meeting with the principal last weekend, but by Monday the news of the decision was already charged. The meeting on Monday was highly charged. Mrs Catherine Hughes, Somerville's principal, had to listen to eloquent and impassioned speeches from the floor. When Mrs Hughes departed, there was even a slow handclap.

Alice Walton does not look like a Somervillian in the Thatcher tradition. She is slight, quiet-voiced and handbag-free, and when she arrived from her Hull comprehensive she was overawed. But, in her third year, she has learnt the Somervillian virtue of confidence, and hers was one of the published letters of protest.

"We have nothing against men. We enjoy Oxford life," she says. "Our point is that until the men's colleges have equal numbers of women — that would be real equality in the university — we must keep women's colleges, and all they stand for."

Somerville stood for a peaceful haven for her, after her co-ed school. Unlike the women who are in the minority in former men's colleges, Somervillians do not need a Women's Tutor or a women's committee to represent their interests. They need not worry about ugly behaviour by male undergraduates, or the awkward aftermaths of affairs with fellow students on the same staircase. For the moment, Somerville has no such tensions. "There is a sense of harmony here. Everyone can feel it," Alice says. "It just seems fantastic to us that when the government launches Opportunity 2000, an institution like Somerville should think of reducing women's places, and the academic posts open to women, without consulting us."

All true. The college, of course, has its reasons, discussed behind

closed doors. The facts are incontrovertible. Somerville has lost its cherished, intellectual pre-eminence at the top of the Norrington table. Women's colleges all began to slide the moment King's College Cambridge decided to open its doors to women in 1969. The men's motives were plain: sheer altruism, of course, to increase women's opportunities. If they improved their standards thereby, that was luck. They knew the women's colleges were turning away women cleverer than some of their men; now they could plunder the supply. Now the women's colleges are having to turn to male fellows, because there are simply not enough women in university posts. Also, a college reasonably wants to be its students' first choice, not to have to resort to the pool of bright but unplaced applicants.

But whatever Somerville's deliberations, the decision was "agonising" for the college. Dr Catherine Duncan-Jones, of the governing body, tells me so, and she has

been a diehard against change for 25 years, until now. She is not in the least surprised that the girls are upset. "They are loyal to the institution and I share their feelings. They feel mistrustful, but they cannot know all our reasons. It was not a cruel and arbitrary decision. There was no ease or comfort in it. And it is nothing to do with liking or not liking men. But it is done. And although my heart isn't in it, my head is."

Dame Janet Vaughan, the former principal, was more unequivocal about it, declaring that the time had come. "I think it's very exciting," she said this week. Dame Janet, now 92 and long retired, is regarded with reverence by all Somervillians of the post-war decades.

One of them, the writer Margaret Forster, who was offered scholarships in history by both Oxford and Cambridge, says she chose Somerville because its whole ambience seemed to be permeated with Dame Janet's spirit: artistic, idiosyncratic, faintly bohemian.

"At my interview, she sat in a sunny room filled with flowers and gave us a happy meal served in scallop shells."

"Years later I watched her on television talking about her work in blood transfusion and the metabolism of radioactive isotopes and the treatment of pernicious anaemia, and being there at the liberation of Belsen, and it made me think: 'What have I done with my life?'

This is what women's colleges graduate in animal morphology. One of her last Somerville students was Dorothy Crowfoot (later Hodgkin). Among Dorothy Hodgkin's students was Margaret Thatcher; and so on. Dame Janet, born 1899, the niece of one of Somerville's founders, spans Somerville's entire history.

"She very much set the tone," Esther Rantzen says. "She was not terribly impressed by undergraduates who sat around or just socialised. She felt one should use every minute and use it well." One year, one of Esther's theatrical productions, involving a naked vestal virgin, was banned by the dean, a story that made all the tabloids. Dame Janet did not mind a bit. The tickets sold out.

Somerville, although millions in the red, like all women's colleges, now boasts a splendid new Margaret Thatcher conference centre, endowed by its eponymous alumna. However disaffected she was with Oxford university, she seems to retain her loyalty to Somerville. As soon as she arrived in 1943, "a plump, pale, solemn girl of 19", as the novelist Nina Bawden recalled her in the anthology



"Until the men's colleges have equal numbers of women, we must keep women's colleges, and all they stand for": Alice Walton (centre foreground) leads a protest

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of rows of women in tiny rooms huddled over mean gas fires, brewing coca — or a room-of-one's-own sense of freedom. Margaret Forster says of her Somerville scholar's room, with its mulioned windows overlooking cedar lawns, "I wanted that room more than I wanted anything else out of the women's movement." But Glendinning married in her second year, to escape "the shrill shrieks of female voices in hall each evening, and the smell of stale tea. There can be something quite oppressive, as well as liberating, about the company of women." But now she looks back with gratitude for the company of all those startlingly bright girls. "I went back recently to speak at high table and there were all these very old, noble faces, of women who had led incredibly worthwhile lives."

Other than its predilection for success, Somervillians are not truly a type. "Other people thought we were. But we're quite a mixture," says Victoria Glendinning. "One of our group joined a closed order of nuns. She took my copy of *Lolita*, and never gave it back."

S

omervillians want to cherish their history, and I can understand their feelings. When my college, Girton, 10 years older than Somerville first opened its doors to men, it seemed a recklessly generous move to us. We knew so well what a ban it had been to get a women's college founded, in the teeth of male opposition. As M.C. Bradbrook, then mistress of Girton, said rightly: "I know you feel amputated from your past."

But our founder, Emily Davies, always insisted on no special treatment for women, no special exams, we must do as the men. If King's opened its doors to women we must open ours to men. Historical fact renders this notion illogical, but now Girton has had 12 years of male undergraduates' tramping feet, and undergraduates boast its 50-50 men/women ratio. It is not the same college. It is no longer so special. The Girton girls, as parodied in *Punch* cartoons, has gone. But the men do sing with fierce pride of the valiant Victorian virgins who "fought so well and played well, as everybody knows" at the college's annual feast, under the portraits of the bonneted lady benefactors who could never have imagined that one day the situation would arise where women would offer up their hard-won places to men.

As Glendinning says, it had become a source of pride that Somerville stayed firm. "When colleges started going mixed it seemed dashing to have girls at Wadham and Christ Church. Now it seems much more radical and daring to resist the pressure."

But the old Somervillians agree it is inevitable. They all speak of "the tide of history". We can't have female ghettos, however comfortable to some. Mary Archer says

she is relieved by the decision: the college would otherwise struggle as a beleaguered minority, pre-occupied with defending its status.

Esther Rantzen agrees. She cannot imagine her daughter applying to a "quaint" women-only college. As for tales of sexual aggression, she says, the thing to

do is to invite men in to Somerville and show them how to behave.

Older Somervillians may not forgive their college. They will back Alice Walton and her contemporaries in a just and noble cause. But I fear it may be another of Oxford's lost ones.

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Spirits of Somerville: (from left) Dame Janet Vaughan; Dame Iris Murdoch and Margaret Thatcher



The teachers and the taught: (from left) Esther Rantzen, Dr Mary Archer and Margaret Forster

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GALLERIES

Richard Cork
reviews a retrospective of the work of Lucian Freud at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool

Although Lucian Freud only makes rare appearances in the work he produces, his presence as the relentless observer is impossible to ignore. Throughout the retrospective survey at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool, which spans half a century of unrelenting activity, Freud's gaze usually remains laser-eyed. Once he has settled on the object of his scrutiny, nothing deflects him from investigating the forms with the zealous precision of a detective.

Freud's style has changed, along with the people who submit themselves to his protracted stare. But the intensity of his hard, single-minded probing is manifested even in the most youthful section of the show.

Among the early drawings, an ink and crayon self-portrait encloses his 25-year-old features in contours steady enough to vie with Bronzino. His hair rises in chiselled tendrils from a face dominated by large, glacial eyes. This is a man already bent on rejecting lazy or sentimental looking in favour of a rigorous alternative.

He had no qualms, during the same period, about defining the rotted feathers of a dead puffin with as much care as his living subjects received. The open-beaked bird must have been a disquieting companion as it lay before him, half-wrapped in a blanket. But Freud insisted on lingering over his decomposed motif, specifying the minutiae of the puffin's broken body with meticulous clarity.

There was a moment, in the second world war, when Freud strayed from the primacy of observation and flirted with Surrealism. In a startlingly unusual picture called *The Painter's Room*, an out-size zebra swathed in red and yellow stripes thrusts its head through the window.

But the animal seems merely theatrical compared with the sustained emphasis, in the pictures hanging nearby, on appraising the thing seen. Freud must quickly have found this goal so absorbing that he had no further need to resort to fantasy.

The act of painting a girl with a kitten yielded an image far stranger and more unsettling than any amount of bizarre, dream-like concoction.

In the good old days of widespread scrofula, the forefathers of our Queen held the reputation of dispensing miraculous cures. Any subject afflicted by these nasty glandular swellings could probably make an appointment for a royal laying on of hands, with no questions asked. Even the scrofulous infant Samuel Johnson, for example, was "touched" by Queen Anne.

Those days are passed, of course. Yet there were moments during last night's highly entertaining *Elizabeth R* (BBC1) when one hoped the tradition could be revived, if only to see the Queen's reaction. "And you will see on the schedule, Ma'am, that after you launch the ship and unveil the plaques you will touch some people with scrofula." The Queen, one fancies, would do an almost undetectable double-take, then purse her lips, think hard, and say brightly, "That will be interesting."

The idea of *Elizabeth R*



Brushwork committed to minuscule exactitude: Lucian Freud's *Girl with a White Dog*, 1950-1951, now in Liverpool. Courtesy of the trustees of the Tate Gallery.

tions. Her eyes are painted with a scrupulous so fine that windows can be seen reflected in her oddly bulbous pupils.

The strands of her dark hair, specified as painstakingly as in the most microscopic Pre-Raphaelite portrait, bristle with the same disquiet that her face discloses. In the hand holding the kitten up in front of her, the fingers close round the animal's throat with menacing rigidity.

For a while, in the early Fifties, Freud moves away from this mood of frozen expectancy and grows more sensuous. The advent of a freckled, flaxen-haired girl inspires the most tender paintings on view here.

He no longer feels impelled, as in an earlier portrait of the dark-haired model, to expose a pale breast and juxtapose it with the dog lying in her lap. The sitter stays clothed, and Freud savours her untroubled features with brushwork less

committed to minuscule exactitude.

As the Fifties came to a close, painters everywhere responded to the challenge thrown down by the impulsive, muscular and free-wheeling strategies of the new American painting. Freud had no intention of following the Abstract Expressionists in their willingness to jettison representational references. But, like his close friend Francis Bacon, he took what he needed from the audacity of the New York avant-garde.

His mark-making becomes looser, emancipated at last from the glassy finish of the previous period. The need for a more convulsive and pugnacious approach culminates in the mighty *Sleeping Head* of 1962, where the woman's flesh seems to have been pummelled into submission by Freud's belligerent brush.

A price, however, had to be paid for this new expansive

realism. Public hair and genitalia are defined with far greater frankness than before, and he shows an uncanny ability to see through the skin and disclose the veins and blood beneath.

The more Freud concentrated on naked figures the more vulnerable they grew. Offering a corrective to stereotypes, ideas about the automatic eroticism of the female nude, these powerful paintings stress isolation and apprehension instead.

In one forceful *Naked Portrait*, the model appears marooned on a mattress. While one leg is hunched up in a fetal position, the other curves round the base of the bed. Freud himself cannot be seen, but she seems acutely aware of his proximity. Indeed, the foreground is dominated by a paint-splattered stool where brushes, palette-knife and mixing bowl all testify to the artist's presiding presence.

By no means all the images

now stress loneliness. Two

nudes occupy the bed in *Annie and Alice*, snuggling together for warmth as one places a consoling hand on the other's pregnant belly.

But the latter still looks anxious, and Freud is never afraid to reveal sagging flesh, blottches, birthmarks and all the other blemishes which distinguish real female bodies from their idealised airbrushed counterparts in pin-up imagery.

His women are capable of experiencing pain as well as delight, and sometimes their bodies match the ungainliness of the worn-out, bursting sofas where they rest their formidable bulk.

Men are treated with an equal amount of directness. In one arresting canvas, a male nude sprawls on a bed with his hand shielding his eyes. A black sock, trailing from the tip of his foot, echoes the curve of his exposed penis.

In the uncompromising world of Freud's maturity,

where people are surrounded by bare floorboards, exposed plumbing, crudely plastered walls and a rudimentary sink, everyone seems conscious of mortality. His mother, arrayed in white, stretches out on a black bedsheet as though stoically awaiting her death. But the crisp vigour with which these figures are depicted prevents his work from becoming morbid.

Standing by the Rags is the title of a magnificent recent canvas, where the female nude looks weary enough to fall against the linen scraps heaped behind her. But Freud's increasingly encrusted pigment, deployed with magisterial eloquence, ensures that she is buoyed up by an innate resilience. The will to endure remains inextinguishable, lending her and the rest of this exhibition an obstinate sense of grandeur.

• Lucian Freud at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool (051-709 3223) Wed-Sun 10am-6pm; Tues 11am-6pm; Closed Mon. Until March 22.

CINEMAS & CULTURE

• **ROTHENSTEIN'S BOXES:** Best known as a printmaker, Michael Rothenstein has, over the last 30 years, made a long series of box-constructions often thematically related to his prints. Few have been exhibited, but now comes a retrospective of more than 100. At the same time, there is a show in St James's of his prints from the Seventies.

Rothenstein's Boxes. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438) Daily 10am-6pm, until March 5. Admission £2, concessions £1. **Images and Themes**. Peter Nahum, 5 Ryder Street, SW1 (071-930 6059) Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until March 13.

• **F.E. McWILLIAM**. One of the few still-active survivors from the Slade in the era of Tonks, McWilliam has never entirely shed the Surrealist influence from the Thirties. His new wooden sculptures retain a Surrealist interest in the arbitrary effects of tree shape and grain. Also works by Grace Pailthorpe and Reuben Mednikoff, included in the International Surrealist Exhibition of 1936.

Mayor Gallery, 22a Cork Street, W1 (071-734 3558) Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until March 20.

• **ROBYN DENNY**. Denny was a golden boy of the Sixties, given his own retrospective at the Tate in 1973, when he was only 43. Since then his hard-edged abstractions have fallen out of favour. This new show indicates a gradual softening of edges and flexibility of forms.

Bernard Jacobson Gallery, 14a Gifford Street, London W1 (071-495 8575) Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm. Until February 29.

• **BARCLAYS YOUNG ARTISTS AWARD**: In previous years the show has offered useful pointers to what is going on at art schools. The judges this year were Mel Gooding, John McGivern and Bruce McLean. The nine artists shortlisted seem interested in installations and found objects, rather than traditional painting and sculpture. Andrew Kearney took the award with *Untitled 1991*, a fortress of concrete and steel.

Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (071-402 6075). Daily, 10am-6pm. Until March 8.

• **ALAN DAVIE**. Claims that Davie is Scotland's "greatest living artist" are arguable, but this retrospective of more than 100 works from the Thirties right up to date is a timely and desirable exercise. Emphasis is on the variety of Davie's activities and interests and the way they are reflected in the painted images.

McLellan Galleries, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041-331 1854). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun noon-6pm. Until March 22.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

TELEVISION REVIEW

Monarch of the lens

was to show the monarch at work — perhaps to impress on us the burden of office. Here she was, fulfilling all sorts of official roles: hosting summit parties, doing walkabouts, visiting the United States, presenting colours, making Christmas broadcasts.

But nobody will have watched the film for news of the Queen's constitutional role. No, we watched because it is endlessly fascinating to study the Queen's face and body language — much as one studies the face of Buster Keaton — for its tiniest variations. Isn't that what we do when we see her on the news, sitting expressionless in foreign parts while natives (in the words of Victoria Wood) waggle their doo-dahs at her?

Here is a person who has been trained from birth not to

offend, not to express opinions. Lech Walesa comes on a countably nervous in her company. So it is down to the Queen to think of a polite question, to get the ball rolling. And it seems to be an uphill task. One begins to appreciate seeing the Queen momentarily stumped, that in the repertoire of possible conversation-starters, the old chestnut "Have you come far?" is something of an all-time gem.

The deft good humour of *Elizabeth R* was its great appeal. It was surprisingly easy to forget the big "issues", such as "How far did the Palace control all this?" and "How dare they manipulate the populace into liking the Queen?", when confronted with the amazing sight of three Windsor Castle footmen carefully polishing a mahogany table 160 feet

long, one of them actually standing on the brilliantly reflecting surface with dustiers tied around his feet.

Conversations and images are what will be remembered from this film: the Queen appearing for her portrait beside a window in Buckingham Palace; appearing at a diplomatic reception and declaring "Oh look, we're all in blue; something's wrong there"; and administering the *coup de grâce* to a conversation about diary-keeping. "Do you keep it in your own hand?" she is asked. "I can't write any other way," she says, baffled by the question.

The best moment was when she pocketed her winnings from the Derby sweepstake. She put the sixteen quid into her pocket with the air of someone thinking, "Now I can get that handbag from Dolcis in the morning."

LYNN TRUSS

• Television listings, page 10

TOMORROW IN THE WEEKEND TIMES
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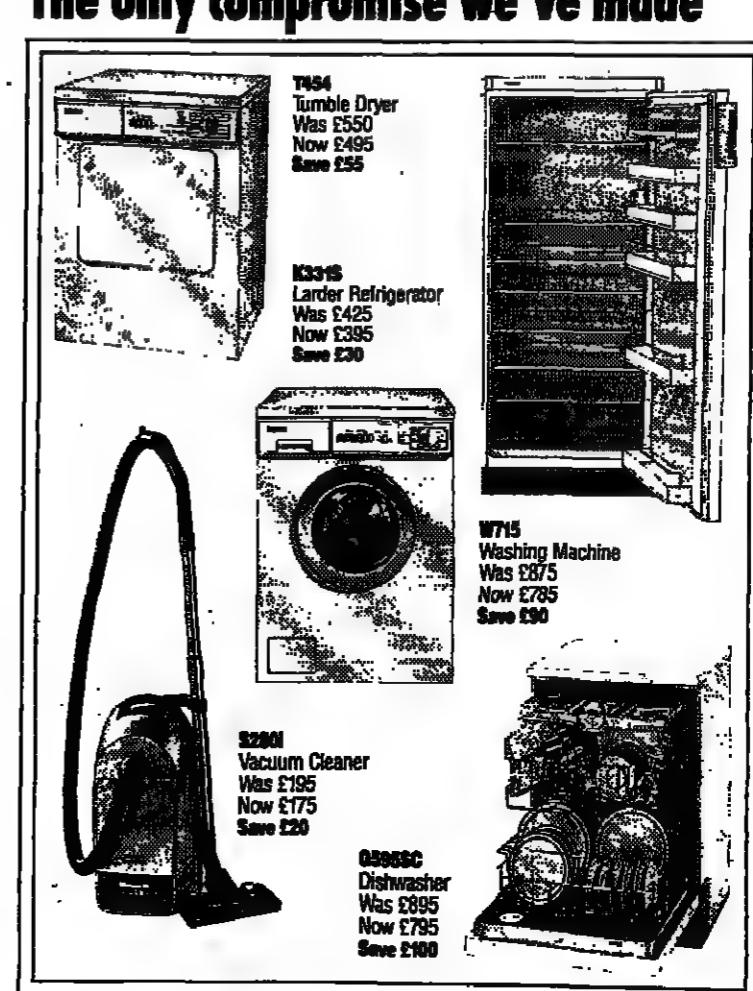
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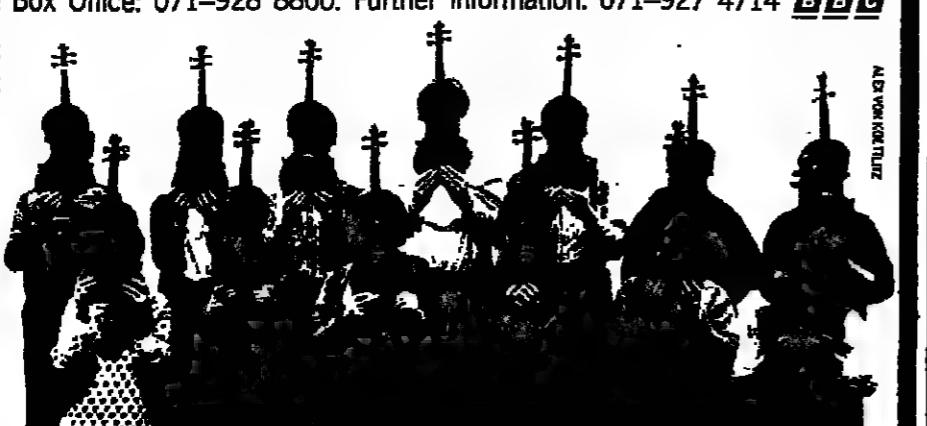
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Ann Steele became a paid attendant to the elderly and considers the pitfalls of providing, and purchasing, private care

An aged handful for the hired help

BRYN COLTON

A sharp rap on the door just before 7am on a chilly Monday startles me out of a deep sleep. An imperious voice booms: "Good morning," and the bedroom door is swung open.

I soon get to learn as the week drags to its miserable end that this is not a friendly greeting but a summons which really means: "Get up. We are waiting for our morning tea."

With some trepidation I get out of bed to start my first day as a housekeeper-cook-carer for an autocratic couple living in luxury in an isolated manor house set in its own grounds in rural Leicestershire.

When I decided to join the ranks of the poorly paid army of private carers whose efforts and patience enable old people to remain in their own homes, I had no idea what I was in for. Life below stairs in the 1990s is still startlingly anachronistic. I could almost have been playing a bit role in *Upstairs, Downstairs*, and after my first day in service I was tempted to walk out.

To be fair, it was only this first experience that was unnerving. The elderly couple still lived as though they were running a household of servants. My week seemed like a month. I was only spoken to when strictly necessary, rarely received a "please" or "thank you" and on one memorable occasion was nearly reduced to tears by the master of the house.

My investigations into the role of private home carers are particularly relevant in the light of the recent death just before Christmas of a 66-year-old wheelchair-bound London woman. The carer who was providing live-in help for the victim, through Care Alternatives, a Wimbledon agency, has been charged with murder. Lucianne Sawyer, the director, says that people should not be alarmed. "We cannot totally eliminate risk but, after all, we have looked after 9,000 clients without incident."

She started the agency ten years ago and follows the UK HomeCare Association code of recruiting practice. "Because we have already got a strict recruitment policy, it's very difficult to do a lot more," she says. "We would like to be able to get police checks on our care assistants but at present this is only available for the people employing carers who look after children."

Her business had not been adversely affected, Ms Sawyer says. "Our recruitment policy and procedure is extremely thorough and we have an excellent reputation." However, following the incident the agency last week



With due care and attention: Lucianne Sawyer, whose agency provides live-in help for the elderly, is introducing more stringent checks on "carers"

decided to instigate two new procedures. Whenever geographically possible it will be visiting care attendants during the first week of live-in jobs. (The agency always telephones the live-in care attendants within the first day or two as a matter of course.)

In addition, Ms Sawyer says she will personally undertake spot checks on references of existing care attendants.

Care Alternatives, in common with the other reputable firms among the 400 to 500 private agencies in the country, always asks for two written references — if possible one from an employer — and also likes to talk to the referees on the telephone. But some of those attracted to the work do not have former employers. "A lot of

our staff come from Australia and New Zealand and we always fax their countries to take up references overseas," Ms Sawyer says.

All home care agencies have to be licensed by the employment department, which Ms Sawyer says does "a certain amount of checking" on premises and how agencies operate. They sometimes, she says, look at references and visit about once a year.

To find out what the job entails, I selected agencies from among the dozens of advertisements in *The Lady* with attractive names such as Aunt Jessica Care, Help At Hand, Newbury Nannies, Rocking Horse and so on.

I explained in my letter that I had no previous experience of taking care of the elderly, apart

from now and then looking after elderly relatives and neighbours, but that I had brought up my own family. I didn't expect such prompt replies.

One or two telephoned almost immediately. I had to fill in application forms and supply two references from people who had

known me a long time. They were required to write back. I don't know whether they were telephoned. One agency wanted a photograph, several specified non-smokers and drivers were welcomed. I chose three agencies and went along for interviews and was offered work by two of them. Only

one asked me to attend a day induction course.

I joined half a dozen other women of varying ages to learn something about coping with the demands of the elderly. One question asked was what we would do if arriving one morning for day duty, having said goodbye to the night staff, we found the elderly client had passed away in bed.

The group looked nervously around at each other for inspiration. Some said they would telephone the GP, others that they would ring the next of kin. None of us suggested calling the police or dialling 999 for an ambulance.

I was surprised that the need for first aid training was not mentioned by our tutor. (The British Nurses' Association, which also

supplies carers as well as nurses, insists that its care attendants take their first aid two-day course. Carers have to foot the bill themselves.)

Our tutor warned us not to take our charges out in our own cars for insurance reasons; always to give a receipt if we took money for shopping ("elderly people can get incredibly forgetful and confused over money"). We were advised to take out indemnity insurance in respect of claims for breach of professional duty.

On my first assignment, a "live-in", the duties were hardly arduous (pay £30 a day). I prepared breakfast, lunch and supper and did a little housework. Each week the couple had exactly the same undemanding menu. There was what was described as a "heavy shopping lady", a reference to the provisions she bought, not her size. I was scheduled to do "light housework and make the beds". I was not entirely sad to leave.

Excluding the vast numbers of paid carers employed through local authorities and privately, there are six million people in Britain today looking after a relative at home. By the year 2000 predictions are that there will be more people caring for an elderly relative than a young child.

Crossroads Care provides temporary care relief for those looking after relatives in their homes. It is the largest agency of its kind, employing 2,000 attendants to help 18,000 families every year. Ian Cross, the director, stresses the importance attached to training and good management.

Not all of my experiences as a paid carer were depressing. A delightful Irish woman in her seventies who was allowed to leave hospital after a fall providing she had 24 hour care, was my first night duty. She wasn't able to go to the bathroom alone and every hour or so I was aroused from a near-comatose state (no sleeping is allowed) to help the old lady to the commode. She was sweetness itself, always apologised for disturbing me and we drank cups of tea all night long.

My third role was to provide weekend meals for a frail little old lady living alone in the country. She had suffered a stroke and was wobbly on her legs. She loved gardening and I watered her plants. Again, she was a delight, totally appreciative.

But I must admit that if I don't come across another Zimmer frame, stair lift, commode or deaf aid it will not be much of a punishment.

Squatters should not be turned into criminals, a new group says

Wherever I lay my hat



Can't pay, would pay: Lou Crisfield working for squatters

Lou Crisfield is prime and persuasive. She is a 25-year-old former squatter and a spokeswoman for Squatters' Action for Secure Homes, a body set up last December, to fight government proposals announced at the end of 1991, which would almost certainly criminalise squatting.

Squatting, as it is known, faces the difficult task of promoting squatters' rights amid headlines such as "Filthy squatters smash home to bits" and "The day squatters invaded our home". Squash shares its offices, in north London, with the 14-year-old Advisory Service for Squatters. It also liaises with Shelter and New Horizon, the housing pressure groups, and with bodies such as the National Union of Students.

Ms Crisfield, a carpenter who works for Squash part-time, says the group's immediate aim is to reply to the government's consultation paper on changes to the law which would almost certainly make squatting a criminal offence.

Squatting's long-term ambition, however, is to change the image of squatters as won't-pay scroungers who prefer to live for nothing than to pay their way. This stereotype belies the reality of the squatters' plight as homeless people with no choice, Ms Crisfield says.

Lorraine Wood, 22 years old and unemployed, has been a squatter since she was 18 and left her home in east London because of what she describes as "a difference of opinion" with her family. At the moment, she is squatting in a former old people's home in Islington, north London, with about 20 other people. She has been there for three months.

"I can't afford the deposit needed up front to rent a home," she says. What money she saves, she is squirrelling away to pay for a course on teaching English as a foreign language.

The chance of getting a council flat is remote for her as a single young person, who is therefore not classified as a priority category by the council. "To get on a council list you have to have a permanent address," she says. "My sister, who has a child, and therefore has a better chance than me, has been on the waiting list for four years."

Most of her fellow squatters are single or students. Ms Wood says: But the squat will not survive for much longer. Islington council last week set a court date to reclaim possession of the building. Ms Wood and others like her are waiting for the bailiffs when they will leave peacefully, in search of a new squat.

Under the Criminal Law Act 1977, squatting is a criminal offence if it involves violence to gain entry, if a criminal act is committed to gain entry, or while inside; or if there is an act forbidding trespass, on, for example, Ministry of Defence property. Otherwise, squatting is dealt with under civil law.

Squatting in vacant properties is a civil offence. Bringing a county court action to evict squatters is often slow and can cost householders up to £800.

Launching his consultation paper last October, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary,

said that existing legal remedies against squatting were "patently unsatisfactory". The paper suggests four options, from maintaining the status quo to making squatting a criminal offence.

But the most likely outcome of the consultation paper, Mr Baker made clear, is that the police would have unrestricted powers to enter residential or commercial property and arrest squatters, who would face six months in jail and a fine of up to £5,000.

Squash is fighting such changes. "We feel the law deals effectively with squatting at the moment," Ms Crisfield says.

The government's alleged "victims of squatting" are largely mythical. Private individuals are not deprived of their homes by squatters.

Government figures show that only three people were convicted under section 7 of the 1977 act in 1988 and only one in 1989.

But what of the approximately 10,000 civil law cases

a year brought against squatters? Such cases hardly ever involve home owners, says Squash. Court lists reveal that private home owners are very rarely involved. "It's true that very rarely are homeowners squatted," says Mr Geoffrey Cutting, the chairman of the Small Landlords Association.

"But there are dozens of cases of people whose vacant home is up for sale, and cases where someone has gone to hospital or who has died who are squatted. At the moment, the owner is put to great expense and time by having to go through these complicated procedures in the courts."

Most cases result from the 90 per cent of squatting which happens in unused public-sector housing and the 9 per cent of squatting involving commercial property. In these cases, the council, housing association, or commercial owner takes the squatter to court in order to evict them.

Make squatting a criminal offence, and you will deny many squatters a chance to make their case to councils to be housed, Squash says.

Squatting families are routinely told by local authorities that they are "not homeless" and their housing applications are turned down.

Every squatter is, in fact, standishly homeless under the Housing Act of 1985.

According to Squash, about one third of squatters are families with children. They say that a London housing survey in 1986, which showed that cases involving young children were negligible, is out of date.

Many squatters have been rehoused by councils after being taken to the civil courts. Cases can be adjourned for squatters to bring proceedings against the council for breach of statutory duty.

Few cases go beyond the first stage of judicial review, at which point the council usually assumes its obligations. Whether criminalisation will close off this process to squatters is a disputed point. In the longer term, Squash will attempt to promote the message that, as Ms Crisfield says: "For up to 50,000 people, squatting is not a problem; it's the solution, albeit temporary, to their homelessness."

RACHEL KELLY

New York, New York



Empire State building: on a clear day you can see forever

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Blood, toil, tears and Scotch

Matthew d'Ancona reports on a riddle wrapped in a medical mystery — how did Winston Churchill manage to save the world while drinking like a fish?

Lords are lordliest in their wine, according to Milton, but are statesmen more statesmanlike when they've sunk a few? Viewers of the BBC's television biography of Sir Winston Churchill may well have pondered this question last week, as they learnt that the man who won a war and made the cigar a totem of power was also a serious drinker, capable of downing quantities of alcohol that would incapacitate some people.

Never averse to a glass of hock over breakfast, in his late sixties the prime minister would drink a bottle of Scotch and soda, and consume yet more champagne and cognac at dinner, returning to a steady drip of diluted whisky as he worked into the small hours. But Churchill's sides rarely saw him the worse for wear.

The roll-call of politicians with a taste for the hard stuff is long and glittering. Pit the Younger, for example, was a fierce and often gourmand drinker, of whom one observer said that he "liked a glass of wine very well, and a bottle still better". Lord Asquith's love of brandy was such that he occasionally appeared unsteady in the Commons, while Ernest Bevin's secretaries complained that he used alcohol like a car uses petrol.

Among today's leaders, Boris Yeltsin is reputedly the most bibulous, often criticised for the Falstaffian lifestyle which distinguishes him so markedly from the abstemious Mikhail Gorbachev.

But Churchill's sheer stature makes his drinking history more compelling and — for those campaigning to strip alcohol of its glamour — unsettling. Over the past decade, the Royal Colleges have recommended a safe weekly intake for men of no more than 21 units of alcohol, a total which Churchill must have exceeded every day. Assuming that Churchill drank two bottles of champagne and about ten shots of spirits a day his daily intake would have been 22 units.

"I'm astonished he could get away with it," says John Rae, the director of the Portman Group, which combats alcohol misuse. "He was brought up at a time when people drank a lot more than nowadays. I would worry if people took this to mean that you can drink a great deal and operate at work. They should in no circumstances treat him as a role model."

The image of the lion-hearted national hero as a seasoned toper certainly upsets current orthodoxy on the destructive impact of alcohol in the workplace. A survey conducted last year by the charity Alcohol Concern showed that drinkers take four times as many days off work as non-drinkers and that three-quarters of employers believe that alcohol misuse is a problem in their organisations.

Booze is hostile to honest graft. Yet Churchill's close acquaintance with the bottle does not appear to have impaired his judgement, his energies as a leader or his output as a historian. He lived to the age of 90, before succumbing to a stroke in January 1965.

How did he manage it? Experts on alcohol and its use say that tolerance can be nurtured in many different ways, depending on the drinker and his or her physical idiosyncrasies. The ratio of fluid to solid in an individual's body, for example, naturally affects the concentration of alcohol in the bloodstream and, therefore, susceptibility to drunkenness.

A stable routine can also play its part: the housewife knocking back the Tio Pepe at home every evening is arguably better placed to hold her drink than the travelling salesman drinking in different places and circumstances every day.

But the much-travelled Churchill never enjoyed a routine lifestyle, so it is unlikely that this was an important factor for him.

The drinker's choice of poison is important too, as certain drinks are better resisted by the body than others. The stomach treats alcohol as an irritant and produces mucus in response, slowing the process of



Still working at full capacity at the age of 89: Sir Winston Churchill in 1963, during a well-watered luncheon meeting with Paul Vardinoyannis, the Greek politician

absorption: sherry makes people get drunk more quickly than whisky, because it generates less protective mucus.

As it happens, Churchill's favourite sipples — Scotch and soda and champagne — were fizzy, and therefore absorbed quickly into the bloodstream. But he doubtless compensated for this by pacing himself. Sir David Hunt, one of his private secretaries, recalled that the prime minister "drank the weakest whisky-and-soda I have ever known".

Another, Sir John Colville, observed that "Winston's whisky was very much a whisky and soda. It was really a mouthwash".

Another important variable is the rate at which the body metabolises alcohol, turning it

into carbon dioxide and water. On average, a unit of alcohol an hour is processed, but, according to Adrian Carr of the Alcohol Studies Centre, Paisley College, this figure can vary dramatically. "Most of the material is based on an average person who is 5ft 10in, 11 stone and perfectly proportioned. They don't talk about the fat slobs and the skinny people."

Long years of drinking experience, he says, usually lurk behind an apparently heroic tolerance. "The main reason why Churchill wasn't rolling out to meet generals was probably long-term consumption. There's evidence to suggest that if you drink a lot for a long time it takes more to get you drunk. Keeping yourself topped up means that the effect may be negligible."

Why men like Churchill take to drink is perhaps more puzzling a question than how they learn to take a skinful. If the apparently bullish prime minister approached alcohol as a means of warding off the "black dog" of depression which hounded him all his life, he did so in error. In spite of his ability to uplift in the short term, alcohol compounds emotional difficulties: studies show that in any population of problem drinkers there is likely to be a significant level of clinical depression, which often recedes when a subject goes on the wagon.

More probable is that Churchill's extraordinary intake of al-

cohol reflected his taste for excess, a tendency which the psychiatrist Anthony Storr characterises as his "need for the manic realm". According to legend, the great man had great appetites and a tendency to addiction.

Churchill loved food, drink and fine cigars. The young Winston was beaten for stealing sugar, and an early school report described him as "greedy". Later in life, he fell prey to the pleasures of the wine cellar; his gargantuan appetites matched his gargantuan role in history.

Drink is also supposed to inspire man as it destroys him, providing what Dr Johnson called a "pick-lock" to the deepest recesses of the imagination. Perhaps, like writers from Horace to Fitzgerald, Churchill saw in the dark glass of the bottle the muse which would keep his creative instincts afloat.

"There's probably a correlation between excellence and drinking," says Simon Rae, the editor of the *Faber Book of Drink and Drinking*. "Drink can be the corset of a very fragile personality. But some people drink and some don't." Hitler, he says, was a teetotaller, while Alexander the Great was a sozzler.

But medicine and psychiatry cannot hope to plumb the depths of Churchill's relationship with drink, a relationship in which he always claimed to exercise the upper hand. "All I will say is that I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me," he once claimed.

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Happily hooked on HRT

"IF MOST of the drugs issued by psychiatrists for the treatment of depression in women were dropped into the ocean, women would be healthier, and fish sicker," writes Mr John Studd, an expert on hormone replacement therapy (HRT), in *General Practitioner* magazine. But in *The Lancet*, psychiatrists claim that HRT can become addictive and suggest that some patients come back to doctors more frequently for larger and larger doses.

The public, which has to take the treatment, is confused by the argument, but as in most savage disagreements, both sides are right.

Any doctor treating a depressed middle-aged woman would be unwise not to consider that hormonal changes might be responsible, and if other signs, symptoms and blood tests confirm an approaching menopause, would be foolish not to try HRT. It would also be

absurdly optimistic not to appreciate that women, like men, suffer from endogenous depressions and that the biochemical upset could be as easily related to the brain as to the ovaries.

Many women will recover their old mood with nothing other than hormone replacement, and with it their sense of well-being. Recent research in Copenhagen has shown that middle-aged spread may regress (albeit so minimally that

HRT could never double as a slimming pill) they will look younger, their bones will be stronger and their sex life rejuvenated. It is hardly surprising that women are reluctant to return to the depressed state which prevailed before they took the hormones.

Other women whose depression is not hormone-linked will need to take the very antidepressant which Mr Studd would consign to the deep. A report in the *Journal of Psychiatry* by Dr Stewart Montgomery of St Mary's Hospital, London, stresses the need for antidepressant treatment of this sort to be continued for at least six months as, if treatment is stopped too soon, there is a 50 per cent chance of relapse or recurrence. The advent of the newer and safer antidepressants of the SHT re-uptake inhibitors group has made this a less daunting task for the patient, and a less worrying one for the doctor.

Brain food



MOTHERS who are unable to breastfeed their babies have been worried by the report in *The Lancet* which showed that very premature babies who were fed on mother's milk tended to do slightly better academically in childhood than those who had had to rely on cow's milk.

Some of the deficiency in cow's milk may be explained by an absence of complex fats including docosahexanoic acid and arachidonic acid which are necessary for the development of brain cells. It seems that manufacturers may soon be adding these fats to baby milks.

Mothers should remember that the survey involved tiny premature infants, rather than those born as they usually are, healthy at full-term. Women who have relied upon the bottle to feed their children should not think that they have condemned them to wear dunce's cap forever.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

INFORMATION ON HEALTH

Q On which of the following would you like more information about how they can affect your health?

Stress

Diet/dieting

Heart disease

Exercise

Smoking

Alcohol

Base: 2,424 users of GPs. Source: MORI

Hugh Wainwright liked his Jensen so much he bought the company. Kevin Eason assesses the new-look supercar

Rebirth of a British champion

Eric Ward is one of the last craftsmen to work in the motor industry's best times, when a British badge signified the highest quality in car engineering. For 36 years Mr Ward has trimmed and fitted the sumptuous leather that envelops drivers who buy a Jensen.

When he started in 1955, Jensen Motors, employing about 3,000 people on a six-acre site at West Bromwich, near Birmingham, was one of the most famous names in British industry. Eleven years later, Jensen crashed, a victim of the great shakeout of the 1970s.

Mr Ward, now aged 62, is one of a dozen-strong team of skilled men who hope to revive Jensen as a competitor for some of the world's finest motoring marques.

The company has a new and enthusiastic owner, Hugh Wainwright, the chairman of Union Holdings, a property-to-engineering business based at Stockport in Cheshire.

Like Victor Kiam, who bought the Remington company because he liked the razor, Mr Wainwright was converted to the cause of Jensen after he bought one of the cars. At that time, Jensen was

mainly a spares and restoration business. Mr Wainwright's ambition was to start a new generation of supercars. In December 1989, he bought the business and started to lay the foundations for full production.

The company also has a new showroom, its first in 20 years, at West One Carriage, George Street, in London's West End. Its show-window product is the new Interceptor S4 EFI, a Jensen with a long heritage and the car that gives the company hope it will be an important 'niche' manufacturer.

David Heseltine, the general manager given the job of guiding Jensen back to prominence, says that changes while subtle, are taking the Interceptor from a car of the Sixties to a car for today.

The Interceptor's muscular features have changed little since the series started 25 years ago. The most substantial development is the Chrysler-supplied 5.9-litre, fuel-injected engine, down from the traditional 6-litre-plus used in previous cars. The advantages are lighter weight, better power control and improved emissions to meet the latest European legislation.



David Heseltine, Jensen's general manager, in the £117,000 Interceptor S4 EFI. The saloon version costs £102,000, which can vary, depending on specification. The 5.9-litre Chrysler V8

Mr Heseltine's team has also added a new three-speed automatic gearbox, bigger brakes, 16in alloy wheels and a deeper front spoiler.

The improvements, Mr Heseltine says, are designed to make the car one that owners will want to drive as a long-range tourer.

The interior certainly cossets: the Connolly leather immediately offers an ambience of luxury. Dashboard dials and switches look chunky and outdated but somehow appropriate in a car of this heritage.

Turn the ignition key and the

Chrysler V8 roars into life, with enough power to propel the car quite easily at the legal motorway limit. The automatic gearshift feels stiff and although the car has more than 200bhp, it still humbers along — hardly surprising because it weighs almost two tonnes.

The convertible I tested was noisy enough to alter my piping tenor to a husky Marlene Dietrich-style growl after a couple of hours of motorway conversation...

So is the £100,000 Interceptor good enough to drag potential owners away from traditional

engine develops 244bhp at 4,200rpm through a three-speed automatic shift. A gearbox with overdrive is available on request. Top speed is 140mph and fuel consumption is about 16mpg.

favourites such as Aston Martin Bentley?

The head says no, but the heart warms to a car of this venerable design and type with the quirks that might saddle the brain of the average Sierra driver but which the supercar owner will virtually demand.

Learning to live with the car, listening to the V8 bubble along country lanes and being hugged by Eric Ward's sumptuous seats are pleasures beyond the boundaries of ordinary motoring.

Mr Heseltine is confident. He

says: "I think we can get to our target of 12 cars a year, then start thinking about moving up to a waiting list of 12 cars and, later, making 24 cars a year with the buffer of a waiting list."

"At that level, this company can start looking forward to a good future."

Although near retirement, that is good news for Mr Ward and his colleagues who have suffered the worst of the bad times, but who can, at least, see the rebuilding of a business they have lived with most of their working lives.

RADWISE

Shoulder to rely on

Police forces have helped to devise a code of practice, which starts next month, to try to prevent the 113 deaths and 3,300 injuries because of crashes on motorways, hard shoulders. The AA, National Breakdown and other organisations will ask patrol staff to be extra vigilant.

Affordable?

Ford has cut the price of its top quality model, the Sierra Cosworth, by more than £6,000 to try to stimulate sales. The new retail price is £21,380.

Price rise

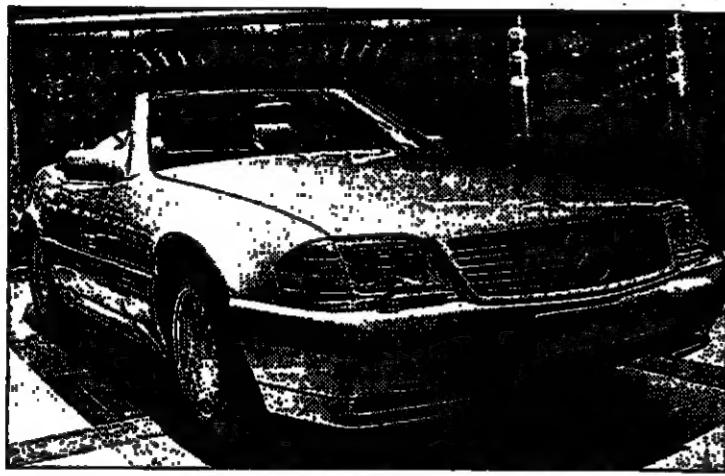
Vauxhall is raising prices by an average 2.3 per cent and adding £10 to the £350 delivery charge. Prices start with the Nova range at £5,599, while the Senator range starts at £21,555.

Volkswagen is pitching prices for its new Golf range, on sale in Britain by March. 3 per cent higher than the old line-up. The Golf will start at under £9,400, a 1.4-litre CL version will cost less than £10,000, and the Golf Unweit turbo-diesel will sell at £11,999. The 2.8-litre VR6 will cost £19,199.

Punchy



Car thieves beware: many victims are so infuriated by motor crime that they would love to punch the culprits. A General Accident survey found that 23 per cent of victims readily admit they would like to commit physical violence on the thieves, despite police advice.



No competition: the £72,000 Mercedes that the Princess of Wales will drive, despite the royal tradition of buying British

Why the princess had to go German

What may appear unpatriotic is really a practical decision for a female car buyer

top will be taken off the princess's new Mercedes SL sports.

Is that a slight to the home motor industry? Of course it is, in the sense that the royal family is Britain's representative abroad. Photographs of what the royals are sent around the world.

But who can blame the princess for wanting to ditch the huge German cars that have been the sporting favourites of the past? Her old XJS is from a design more than

two decades old with a 5.3-litre engine and a long bonnet.

The Aston Martin DB series, her husband's personal favourite cars, are big, noisy and need a fair amount of muscle to drive. The SL, by contrast, is a superb lightweight two-seater, which is easy to handle and has sleek styling.

It is a 150mph sports car docile enough to be driven by the most inexperienced driver. The car also has the latest safety features.

No wonder then that almost alone among British car sales slumped by a fifth, sales of the SL series rose last year to 1,350 from about 1,100 in 1990.

Critics have been quick to upbraid the princess, but they should ask the question that lies behind her decision: where are the SL's British competitors?

If Jaguar had made its planned F-Type successor to the old E-Type, perhaps she could have chosen Jaguar. Rover is not making a sports car at present, leaving only the "muscle" cars as possible options in the £72,000 price bracket occupied by the SL.

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

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1991 T Golf 1.6V 5dr £10995
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B64 4.0 Cabriolet. Auto. 99,000 miles. Black. M/T. Very good

BBC 1

6.00 *Ceefax* (2266) 6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* (5277/689)
 6.05 *Kilroy*, Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject, (4416216) 9.50 *Hot Chats*. More late-type food from Antony Worrall Thompson (5341194)
 10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (6108007) 10.05 *Playdays*. For the very young (r) (1961120) 10.25 *Pingu*. Animated adventures of a clumsy penguin (r) (6101194) 10.35 *Family Quiz*. Family quiz game show hosted by Mike Smith with Kata Copstick (s) (5765928)
 11.00 *News*, regional news and weather (6108007) 11.05 *Travel Show Extra*. Reports on Torbay in Devon, Hungary's Lake Balaton, the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire and the Aeolian Islands of southern Italy (7675939) 11.30 *People Today*. Introduced by Miriam Stoppard and Ruth Grant (2251786)
 12.20 *Police News* (6108007) 12.35 *Cloud*. Presented by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (5152000) 12.35 *Regional News and Weather* (60257642)
 1.00 *One O'Clock News* and weather (56942) 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) (s) (60279113)
 1.50 *Film: The Saboteur*. Code Name "Mortifer" (1945). b/w starring Marlon Brando and Yul Brynner. Heavy-going second world war drama about a German army deserter, hiding out in India, who is discovered by British intelligence and forced into helping capture a Nazi cargo ship. Directed by Bernhard Wicki (1133946)
 3.50 *Bizas*. Simon Pegg and Caitlin Easterby with ideas on recycling household items and how to use them (6108007) 4.05 *After Dark*. David Healy with the last part of his *After Dark* (620625) 4.30 *Hangers* 17 presented by Mickey Hutton. The guests are magician Jeff McBride, comedian Steve Rawlings and the band Take That (s) (2516755)
 4.55 *Newround Extra*. Terry Baddeley reports from Alberville in the French Alps on the eve of the Winter Olympics (3259128) 5.05 *Grange Hill*. Children's school drama series (Ceefax) (s) (5716215)
 5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (783741). Northern Ireland. Inside Ulster
 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Ceefax) Weather (564)
 6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (484). Northern Ireland. *Neighbours* 7.00 *Region* (s) (526565)
 7.35 *Mary and the Headless*. Comedy series about a suburban American family who adopt a large creature after accidentally wounding it on a weekend trip to the country. (Ceefax) (s) (4224945)
 8.00 *Grace and Favour*. Camp comedy with the staff of Gracie Brothers relocated to a country hotel. (Ceefax) (s) (5200)
 8.30 *Caught in the Act*. Shane Richie introduces another selection of home movie disasters. (Ceefax) (s) (5007)
 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (5620)



Unrequited love. Adam Faith and Zöe Wanamaker (9.30pm)

9.30 *Love Hurts*. Comedy drama from the Birds of a Feather team of Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran starring Adam Faith as a self-made millionaire who falls for idealistic charity worker (Zoe Wanamaker) but finds his passion is not reciprocated. (Ceefax) (s) (562262)
 10.20 *Snooker*. The last quarter-final of the Benson and Hedges Masters. Introduced by Eamonn Holmes from the Wembley Conference Centre (794568)

11.20 *Film: Shiffie* (1975). **C** CHOICE: A delightfully unorthodox comedy-thriller sends ex-convict James Caan rattling across California on the trail of hidden foot in the company of kooky Sally Kellerman, toothy Louise Lasser and villainous Peter Boyle, with a couple of black mobile homes in creepy pursuit. The enigmatic script by W.D. Richter sets the tone for an engrossing film which successfully weaves together a variety of styles and moods and is enriched by superb photography from the *Easy Rider* cameraman Laszlo Kovacs. Shiffie was the directing debut of Howard Zieff, a recent star from American television. Zieff's handling is impeccable, effortlessly switching from hard-edged suspense to deftly satiric and working in a series of movie parades which are clever but never forced. After this fine start Zieff went on to make *House Calls* with Walter Matthau and Dianne Jacobson and *Private Benjamin* with Goldie Hawn (522718). Northern Ireland: Spottacula 11.45-1.25am. Film: *The Carey Treatment* 12.55am Weather (5695934)

BBC 2

6.00 *Broadsheet News* (203307)
 6.15 *Westminster*. A round-up of business from both Houses (5655211)
 6.20 *Daytime* on 2. Educational programmes.
 2.00 *News and Weather* (10683910) 2.15 *Wards and Pictures*. Reading for five to seven-year-olds (7423502) 2.15 *Weekend Outlook*. Open University preview (10673533)
 2.20 *Sport on Friday* introduced by Helen Rollason. Snooker: the third quarter-final of the Benson and Hedges Masters. Golf: highlights of the AT and T tournament from Pebble Beach; Winter Olympics: a preview of Sunday's men's downhill; Cricket: highlights of the second day's play in the first Test between New Zealand and England in Wellington. News and weather at 3.00 and 4.00 (5651132)
 5.05 *Behind the Headlines* presented by Shyama Peters (s) (5714828)
 5.35 *The Clothes Show*. Includes tips for shopping on a shoestring and news of a large discount clothing and footwear store (r) (s) (5827223)
 6.00 *Thunderbirds*. Cult puppet adventures created by Gerry Anderson. (Ceefax) (224910)
 6.50 *Dr Who* (b/w). Episode 2 of a five-part adventure *The Mind Robber*, first shown in 1968, starring Patrick Troughton as the doctor and Fraser Hines (300484)
 7.15 *100% Teenage Magazine* series. This week's edition includes conversations with young MPs (572640) (s)
 8.00 *Police Eye*. Inspector Martin Bairstow investigates the police classification system. Senior police officers, lawyers and claimants all give their views (1848)
 8.30 *Old Garden, New Gardener*. Geoff Hamilton and Gay Search tackle garden boundaries for this novice gardener. (Ceefax) (7546)
 9.00 *Victoria Wood as Seen on TV*. Monks from the comedienne's first series, shown in 1988. Combines songs, monologues, sketches and the wonderful aposp soap *Acorn Antiques*, with Julie Walters, Celli Imrie, Duncan Preston, Susie Blake and Patricia Routledge. (Ceefax) (6226)



Actions speak louder than words: director Oliver Stone (9.30pm)

3.30 *Annes: Oliver Stone*.

C CHOICE: The one thing thankfully missing from a timely portrait of the director of JFK is a rehash of the uproar that has broken out around him. Instead of yet another debate about who really killed President Kennedy we get a solid background on Stone's career, built on traditional lines around clips and interviews. Stone himself is very good value, not least when he adopts his characteristic play of responding to a tricky question with a long silence. For those even moderately acquainted with the subject there will be few surprises, partly because Stone has put so much of himself into his work. His Vietnam film *Platoon* is not just vaguely autobiographical, but, if anything, is to be preferred, virtually a blow-by-blow account. Stone's French mother contributes briefly to the programme, while cinema collaborators such as Michael Douglas and Charlie Sheen add their love-hate tributes (57755)

10.15 *What the Papers Say*. With Robert Fox of the Daily Telegraph (842128). Wales: *Walise* in Westminster 11.45-12.00. What the Papers 11.30 *Scrutiny*. Ian McWhirter examines the work of parliamentary committees (56718) 12.05 *Weather* (720507)

12.05 *Film: Strange Place to Meet* (1988) starring Catherine Deneuve and Gérard Depardieu. French drama about a wife, dumped in a lay-by by her husband after an argument, who forms a romantic attachment with a cantankerous doctor. A thinish piece is lifted by excellent star performances. Directed by François Dupeyron. English subtitles (432088)
 1.40 *Behind the Headlines* (1) (5939663). Ends at 2.15

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ITV VARIATIONS

GRANADA
 As London excepts 5.30-5.45pm *Donahue* (5627249) 5.45-5.50 *Horizon* (5627250) 5.50-6.00 *Home and Away* (562542) 6.05-6.15 *Anglia* (5627165) 6.15-6.30 *Coronation Street* (5627166) 10.45-10.55 *Crossroads* (5627167) 11.00-11.05 *EastEnders* (5618194) 12.25-1.05am *Dancing*

BORDER

As London excepts 1.05pm-5.15am *Assault on the Wayne* (741767) 6.00 *Lockdown* (Friday 2000) 6.30-7.00 *Takes the High Road* (5622140) 8.10-8.40 *Coming of Age* (5622141) 9.00-9.30 *Women* (5622142) 10.45-10.55 *Anglia News* (5622143) 10.45-10.55 *Crossroads* (5622144) 11.00 *EastEnders* (5622145) 12.25-1.05am *Dancing*

CENTRAL

As London excepts 2.20-3.15pm *Donahue* (5627249) 3.30-3.45pm *The County Show* (5622141) 3.45-3.55 *EastEnders* (5627250) 5.15-5.45 *Anglia* (5627165) 5.45-5.55 *Home and Away* (562542) 6.05-6.15 *Central News* (5627166) 10.45-10.55 *Coronation Street* (5627167) 11.00-11.05 *EastEnders* (5627168) 12.25-1.05am *Dancing*

RADIO 3

GRANADA
 As London excepts 5.30-5.45pm *Donahue* (5627249) 5.45-5.50 *Horizon* (5627250) 5.50-6.00 *Home and Away* (562542) 6.05-6.15 *Anglia* (5627165) 6.15-6.30 *Coronation Street* (5627166) 10.45-10.55 *EastEnders* (5627167) 11.00-11.05 *EastEnders* (5627168) 12.25-1.05am *Dancing*

TYV WEST
 As London excepts 1.50pm *The Young Doctors* (5622140) 2.20-3.15 *Metlock* (5622141) 3.25-3.45 *A Country Practice* (5622142) 4.00-4.30 *Home and Away* (562542) 4.45-5.15 *Private Eye* (562543) 5.20-5.45 *Coronation Street* (5622143) 5.50-6.05 *EastEnders* (5622144) 6.10-6.25 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622145) 7.00-7.15 *TV Wales* (5622146) 7.20-7.35 *Metlock* (5622147) 7.40-7.55 *Home and Away* (562542) 7.55-8.05 *Private Eye* (562543) 8.10-8.25 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 8.30-8.45 *EastEnders* (5622145) 8.50-8.55 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 9.00-9.15 *TV Wales* (5622147) 9.20-9.35 *Metlock* (5622148) 9.40-9.55 *Home and Away* (562542) 9.55-10.05 *Private Eye* (562543) 10.10-10.25 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 10.30-10.45 *EastEnders* (5622145) 10.50-10.55 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 11.00-11.15 *TV Wales* (5622147) 11.20-11.35 *Metlock* (5622148) 11.40-11.55 *Home and Away* (562542) 11.55-12.05 *Private Eye* (562543) 12.10-12.25 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 12.30-12.45 *EastEnders* (5622145) 12.50-12.55 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 12.55-1.00 *TV Wales* (5622147) 1.05-1.10 *Metlock* (5622148) 1.15-1.20 *Home and Away* (562542) 1.20-1.25 *Private Eye* (562543) 1.25-1.30 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 1.30-1.35 *EastEnders* (5622145) 1.35-1.40 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 1.40-1.45 *TV Wales* (5622147) 1.45-1.50 *Metlock* (5622148) 1.50-1.55 *Home and Away* (562542) 1.55-1.60 *Private Eye* (562543) 1.60-1.65 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 1.65-1.70 *EastEnders* (5622145) 1.70-1.75 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 1.75-1.80 *TV Wales* (5622147) 1.80-1.85 *Metlock* (5622148) 1.85-1.90 *Home and Away* (562542) 1.90-1.95 *Private Eye* (562543) 1.95-2.00 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 2.00-2.05 *EastEnders* (5622145) 2.05-2.10 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 2.10-2.15 *TV Wales* (5622147) 2.15-2.20 *Metlock* (5622148) 2.20-2.25 *Home and Away* (562542) 2.25-2.30 *Private Eye* (562543) 2.30-2.35 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 2.35-2.40 *EastEnders* (5622145) 2.40-2.45 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 2.45-2.50 *TV Wales* (5622147) 2.50-2.55 *Metlock* (5622148) 2.55-2.60 *Home and Away* (562542) 2.60-2.65 *Private Eye* (562543) 2.65-2.70 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 2.70-2.75 *EastEnders* (5622145) 2.75-2.80 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 2.80-2.85 *TV Wales* (5622147) 2.85-2.90 *Metlock* (5622148) 2.90-2.95 *Home and Away* (562542) 2.95-3.00 *Private Eye* (562543) 3.00-3.05 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 3.05-3.10 *EastEnders* (5622145) 3.10-3.15 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 3.15-3.20 *TV Wales* (5622147) 3.20-3.25 *Metlock* (5622148) 3.25-3.30 *Home and Away* (562542) 3.30-3.35 *Private Eye* (562543) 3.35-3.40 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 3.40-3.45 *EastEnders* (5622145) 3.45-3.50 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 3.50-3.55 *TV Wales* (5622147) 3.55-3.60 *Metlock* (5622148) 3.60-3.65 *Home and Away* (562542) 3.65-3.70 *Private Eye* (562543) 3.70-3.75 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 3.75-3.80 *EastEnders* (5622145) 3.80-3.85 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 3.85-3.90 *TV Wales* (5622147) 3.90-3.95 *Metlock* (5622148) 3.95-4.00 *Home and Away* (562542) 4.00-4.05 *Private Eye* (562543) 4.05-4.10 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 4.10-4.15 *EastEnders* (5622145) 4.15-4.20 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 4.20-4.25 *TV Wales* (5622147) 4.25-4.30 *Metlock* (5622148) 4.30-4.35 *Home and Away* (562542) 4.35-4.40 *Private Eye* (562543) 4.40-4.45 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 4.45-4.50 *EastEnders* (5622145) 4.50-4.55 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 4.55-4.60 *TV Wales* (5622147) 4.60-4.65 *Metlock* (5622148) 4.65-4.70 *Home and Away* (562542) 4.70-4.75 *Private Eye* (562543) 4.75-4.80 *Coronation Street* (5622144) 4.80-4.85 *EastEnders* (5622145) 4.85-4.90 *Film: The Carey Treatment* (5622146) 4.90-4.95 *TV Wales</*